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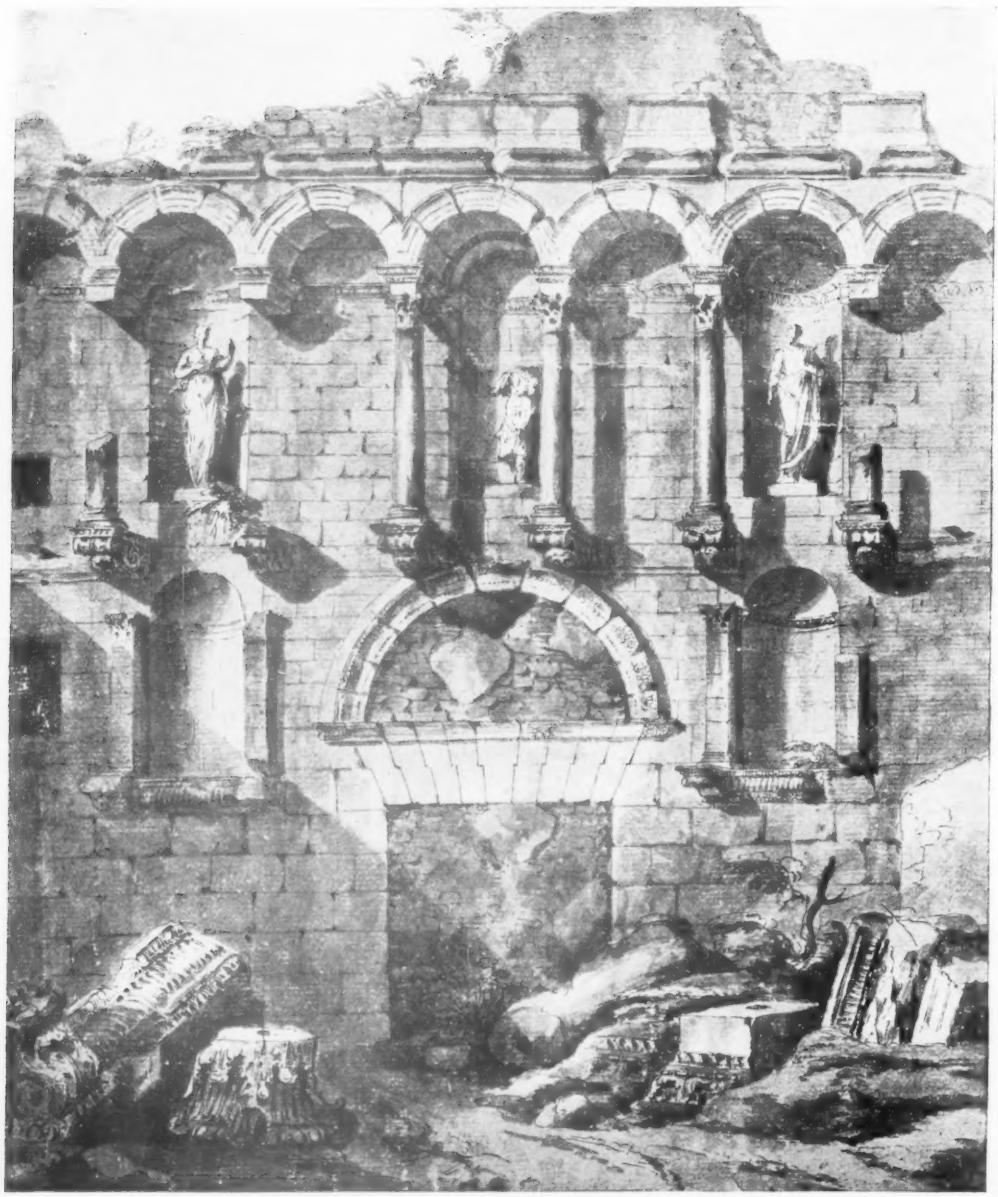

PORTA AUREA, SPALATO
Original Drawing by C. L. Clérisseau (1722-1820)
Presented to the R.I.B.A. Collection of Drawings by Mr. Sydney D. Kitson (Hon. Secretary)
(*See page* 437)

FIG. 6.—TUESDAY MARKET PLACE, LYNN. From an Old Print, 1797

Bell of Lynn : A Contemporary of Sir Christopher Wren

BY JAMES F. HOWES [*A.*], INSTITUTE ESSAY MEDALLIST 1929

FROM the Restoration to the death of Queen Anne may be regarded as the finest period of English Renaissance architecture. During this time Sir Christopher Wren and his contemporaries carried on the work begun by Inigo Jones, and developed that typically national style of architecture which was a living tradition in vernacular work until well towards the end of the eighteenth century. The later work of the London architects tended to pedantry, thus losing much of the robust freshness and sensibility which constitute the charm of seventeenth century work.

With the re-establishment of the monarchy the country became more settled, and men felt free to devote more time to the humanistic side of life which had been thought of little account in the stern days of the Commonwealth. Not only architects but the cultivated public generally began to take an increasing interest in æsthetic matters, and the principles of classical Renaissance architecture were disseminated throughout the country.

In many centres fine schools of craftsmen had grown up, and it only needed men of imagination and skill to furnish them with designs in the stricter classical manner which they were anxious to adopt. Before the advent of Inigo Jones, master masons had been largely responsible for the design of buildings, but at this time professional architects, in the sense of men who provided the design without actually working on the buildings, were becoming more general. These were mostly of two classes, former master tradesmen, or their sons, and gifted amateurs who included architecture in their avocations.

Sir Christopher Wren, by the immensity of his achievements, seemed, until quite recently, the only well-known architect of this period, and outstanding buildings in the provinces were often attributed to him. But it is found on investigation that in many provincial towns there was a local architect who was responsible for most of the work around the district. Time has dealt hardly with these lesser known men, and it is only where their names have been preserved in records, or

on account of their holding some public position, that we know anything of them.

One with whom the practice of architecture was not an all-engrossing occupation was Henry Bell, Alderman and twice Mayor of King's Lynn. His chief building, the Custom House of his native town, was, until quite recently, attributed to Sir Christopher Wren, and is worthy of him; his other buildings are equally meritorious.

Bell's works were practically confined to Lynn, and before discussing them it might be well to describe this borough which occupied rather a unique position at the time.

Lynn Episcopi, or Lynn Regis, as it was called after the dissolution of the monasteries, had been a seaport and an important town since Saxon times, and at the Restoration was one of the first ports in the kingdom. Dutch and Flemish settlers and the visits of foreign merchants had caused Lynn to become more like a prosperous old town of the Netherlands than an English borough.

The merchants, who imported wines from France and the Peninsula, and whose ships sailed to the Baltic and the further seas, lived in a princely fashion in their fine old houses, and were great patrons of the arts. A school of craftsmen had flourished in Lynn for centuries, and the merchants' houses were filled with wonderfully rich panelling and chimney-pieces of the Tudor and Jacobean periods. Their houses were mostly in one street, called Checker Street, and backed on to the river. In the gardens watch towers had been erected, where the merchants eagerly awaited the first signs of their returning argosies. There was a great market place where fairs were held, and where, occasionally, witches had been burned, or boiled, as an additional entertainment.

Defoe, in his *Tour Through the Whole Island of Great Britain*, in 1725, remarks: "We went to Lynn, another rich and populous port town—greatest extent of inland navigation here of any port in England, London excepted. They bring in more coals than any seaport between London and Newcastle, and import more wines than any port in England except London and Bristol. Their trade to Norway and the Baltic seas is also great in proportion, and of late years they have extended their trade further to the southward."

The Bell family had been connected with Lynn for some time. The father of Henry was an Alderman of the Borough and Mayor in 1685–6. He was descended through a younger son from Sir Robert Bell, whom Elizabeth made a Chief Baron of the Exchequer in 1572. An uncle of Henry Bell was a master at the Grammar School, and his father and another uncle, Robert, had an oil mill just outside the town. This mill, the framework of which had been brought over from Holland in 1638, belonged to a Mr. Southerby of London, and in 1668 was let to Alderman Henry Bell and his brother Robert at an annual rent of £20, by far the highest in the parish, the next in order being £12. Robert Bell died in 1681 and Henry Bell in 1686. The mill then became the property of a Mr. Gore, but the same high rent was being paid to him in 1687 by Henry Bell, the architect, who must have succeeded his father in business. Bell owned a house in the same parish, which was assessed in 1687 at £13, and he also had thirteen acres of land.

The only record of Henry Bell's birth was furnished by a tombstone which lay in the north aisle of Old St. Margaret's Church, where the Bell family were buried. On this stone was the inscription "Hic jacet Henricus Bell Aldermanus hujus municipii bis praetor Vir ingenii admodum capacis variis artibus Pictura praesertim et Architectura instructissimus Obit Apr. 11, Anno Ætat 64, Dom 1717." Even allowing for the extravagant language of the eighteenth century this epitaph shows that Bell was considered a man of great attainments. He must have been born in 1653, but there is no entry of his birth in any of the local registers. This may be due to the fact that the Commonwealth had abandoned all ceremony and only required registration of the birth, and the Bells, who were ardent Royalists, might have resented this.

Very little is known of Bell's early life or how he received his training in architecture. He was probably a scholar at the local Grammar School, and it is more than likely that he afterwards had plentiful opportunities of travelling abroad. He evidently decided to take up engraving and became remarkably proficient at the art, making a ground plan of Lynn and sketches of the churches and other buildings of interest. It might have been his success in this direction that led to his being asked to furnish designs in architecture. At this time there were several English translations of the works of the Italian masters available. Serlio had been translated out of the Dutch into English as early as 1611, and in 1664 Evelyn published his translation of Freart's Parallels. There is a certain Batavian flavour about Bell's early work, and it is extremely likely that he had copies of the Dutch works of Vingboon and Danckerts. His detail, especially of the Custom House, seems to be influenced by Scamozzi, of whose book there was an excellent Dutch translation then available.

That Bell was paid for his designs is fairly certain; it is on record in the case of the altar piece for St. Margaret's Church. When he succeeded his father in business he was evidently fairly prosperous. He became an alderman and was mayor in 1692 and 1703, and was also a captain of the trained bands. That Bell was considered a man of standing is instanced by his serving on a committee, with other persons of local importance, for the rebuilding of North Runcton Church, towards which he subscribed so handsomely.

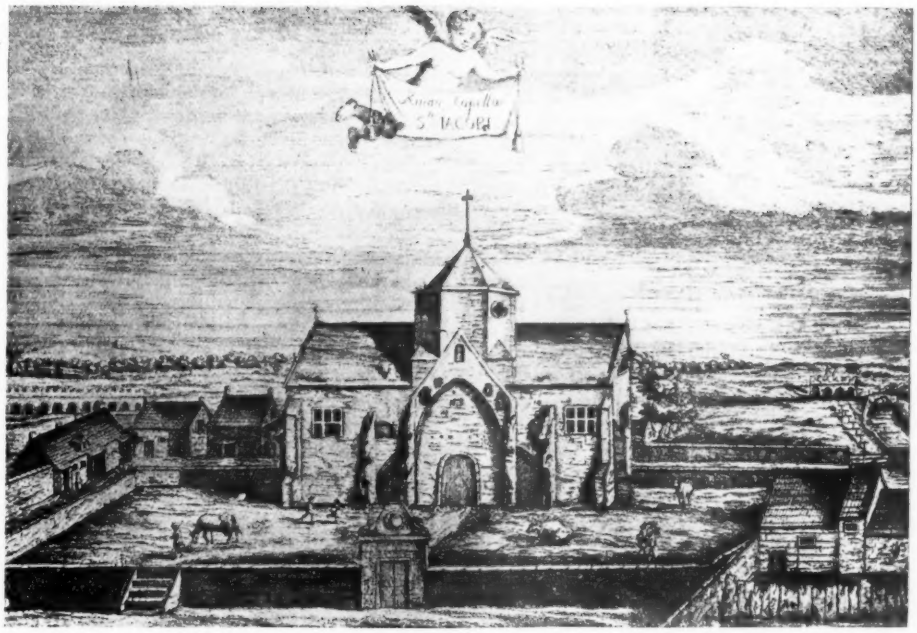

FIG. 1.—RUINS OF ST. JAMES'S CHAPEL, LYNN. From an Engraving by H. Bell

FIG. 2.—ST. JAMES'S CHAPEL, LYNN, AS CONVERTED BY BELL
From a Drawing made in 1832 by the Rev. E. E. Edwards

Bell married, his wife, Anna, surviving him by just over a year, dying in 1718 and being buried alongside him. It is not known whether he had any children, and although Bell is mentioned by contemporary writers, no personal incidents in his life are recorded.

The earliest known engraving by Bell is the pictorial plan of Lynn signed H. Bell, D. Excu. and bearing the date "An. 1561." This date is undoubtedly an error and has been much controverted. The real date can only be conjectured, but it was before 1683, as the Custom House is not shown. The execution is very rough, and is evidently the work of an inexperienced hand. There is a very scarce print of the old Custom House, an early seventeenth century building, with a statue of James the First in the centre, and a portico railed off for the public, and this is signed in Bell's usual manner, the "H" being joined to the "B." There is then a series of engravings of about the same size signed "H. Bell Delin." The earliest is of the fifteenth century Purfleet Bridge, against which the Custom House was afterwards built. Then there are two views of St. Margaret's church, one from the south in which the tower is shown reversed, and one of the inside. Both these engravings were re-issued in 1741 with corrections. Bell also made a sketch of the ruins of St. James's chapel, which he afterwards rebuilt. His largest engraving was the west view of Lynn, which filled two sheets, and is now extremely rare. There was also the view of his Market Cross, a photograph of which is given with the description of that building (see pages 427 and 428). His finest engraving, now in the British Museum, is that of the Custom House. This is described later along with the building.

It is thought that Bell's first work was the conversion of the ruined chapel of St. James into an hospital or workhouse. This was in 1682, when he was 29 years of age. There is no definite evidence to connect Bell with this work, but as he had sketched the ruins (Fig. 1), and must have been interested in architecture, it is quite likely to have been rebuilt to his designs. From the illustration (Fig. 2) it will be seen that there is a marked difference between the rather crude detail of this and the thorough classicism of his Custom House, which was erected only a year later. The building was provided with a new roof with a balustraded flat, from which rose a cupola, and stone mullioned windows and an entrance doorway were inserted in the old walls. The place was supported by moneys from the Corporation, and in 1835 became a workhouse. In 1854, after giving warning signs of its weakness, the central tower with the roof and cupola collapsed and practically destroyed the building. The site was then sold and afterwards used for secular purposes.

The first authentic work of Bell is the Custom House (Fig. 3) which is considered one of the finest works of its kind in the kingdom. It has certain faults, but for general proportion, suitability to its purpose, novelty and refinement of detail, it takes a high place amongst buildings of its size and period. Although its designer was mentioned in all the local histories of the time, it was not until a year or two before the close of the nineteenth century that Bell was generally acknowledged as the architect; previous to this, the design was often attributed to Sir Christopher Wren. But it seems to be a tendency of those with a smattering of architectural history to think that any well-designed building of the seventeenth century must be the work of Inigo Jones or Wren. Often when being shown over a house with some interesting panelling or other features, one is informed by the proud owner that it is considered to have been designed by, say, Inigo Jones, and after a time the legend is regarded as fact by local historians rash enough to accept these statements without verification.

Alderman John Turner, who was knighted in 1684, offered, "at his own cost and charges," to erect a building as an exchange for merchants and traders, and asked the Corporation to grant a site. On 18 June 1682 the Corporation made a resolution granting him a piece of ground from "Purfleet bridge foote westward not exceeding 40 feet in length as shall be convenient for that purpose." Henry Bell prepared a design and made an engraving. The engraving, which measures 16 inches by 13 inches, and is now in the print room of the British Museum, shows the building very much as it is now.

The exchange was erected in 1683, and in 1684 the Corporation made a deed of feoffment to Sir John Turner at a quit rent of one shilling a year, with the proviso that the ground floor was always to remain open for the purposes of an exchange. The upper floors are afterwards recorded as being let at a rent of £10 per annum to the officers of Custom. In 1715 Sir John Turner's nephew negotiated for the disposal of the exchange, and shortly afterwards the Government bought the building, and it has since been used as a Custom House.

The building, which is of Portland stone, silvery grey at the upper storey and weathered almost black at the base by the deposits from murky sea mists, has a very picturesque appearance. In general design it has much in common with contemporary exchanges in the Netherlands, having the same dual storeys, although here they are not so apparent, and applied orders with arcading on the ground storey. The lower storey is of Doric pilasters on pedestals, and has a correctly proportioned entablature. There are panels to the bays next the corners and imposts and archivolts to former arcading to the others. The upper story has stone mullioned windows with leaded casements, and is treated with Ionic pilasters carrying an architrave and pulvinated stone frieze, above which is a wooden

modillion cornice with soffit and fascia, and a cast iron gutter, which probably replaces a gutter originally formed in the cornice. From the back of this cornice the roof rises to a flat surrounded by a wooden balustrade, the pedestals of which contain flues. The disfiguring chimneys were removed a year or so ago by the Office of Works. On the flat is a wooden turret with pilasters and pediments upon top of which is an octagonal cupola.

FIG. 3.—THE CUSTOM HOUSE, LYNN
Sketch by the Author

The entrance front is very finely detailed (Figs. 4 and 5). The centre bay stands forward by the use of three-quarter columns instead of pilasters at the lower storey. The upper storey contains a niche with a cherub's head above and a corbelled pedestal below, on which is a fine effigy of Charles the Second. The bay is crowned at the top by a pediment. The grotesque heads to the key blocks of the archivolts are vigorously carved and of marked character, especially those overlooking the river. The centre doorway has a woman's head carved on the key block. This is rather too small, and carefully finished, and is not at all in keeping with the other masks.

There are several discrepancies between the building as it is now and the engraving by Bell. The engraving shows open arcading on three sides of the ground storey, and it was undoubtedly built like this, for the engraving of the Custom House on William Rastrick's map of Lynn, dated 1725, shows the arches open, and

there is the deed to Sir John Turner, where it is expressly mentioned that they are to be left so. The walling up seems to have taken place soon after the building was bought by the Government. A balustraded parapet is also shown above the upper cornice. This is shown on Rastrick's engraving and, judging by the fact that the roof springs well back from the present roof is rather too flat ; it is now about 45 degrees pitch, and would have been much better at 50 degrees or 55 degrees. The obelisks shown in the engraving were never erected, but the upper part of the turret was. In *Mackerell's History of Lynn*, 1737, the turret is described thus : " On the platform above is raised an open turret upon pillars of the Corinthian order with

FIG. 4.—THE CUSTOM HOUSE, LYNN
Detail of Entrance Front

cornice, it seems highly probable that the balustrade was erected. It was probably of wood, which perhaps decayed and was not renewed.

Perhaps the greatest difference is in the finish of the gallery and cupola. Some consider that the cupola is rather isolated and that the roof and turret generally do not spring naturally from the rather box-like building below. The lower balustrade and obelisks would have overcome this objection, which is not, however, a serious one. The greater fault is that the slope of the

an Exchange Bell therein ; being finished above with an Obelisk and Ball, whereon is set Fame in the place of a Weathercock ; the whole being about 90 feet high." The turret was very much damaged in a storm some years later, and the obelisk and gilt figure of Fame were not replaced, but the present cupola with a weathervane erected in their stead. The original turret had Corinthian pilasters to the lower part ; two of the posts to the re-entrant angles still have the corner volute and leaves of the caps showing.

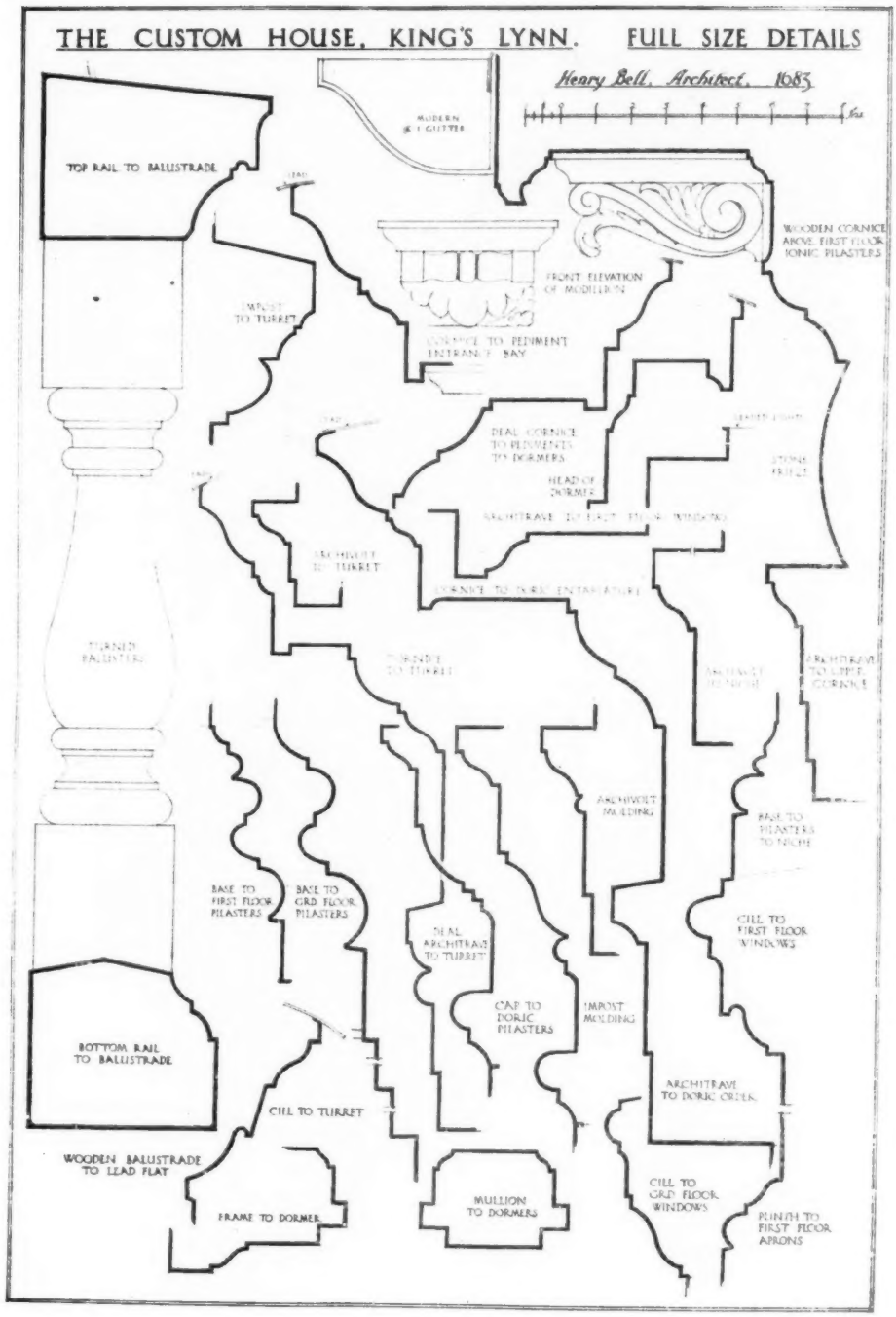

FIG. 5.—MEASURED AND DRAWN BY THE AUTHOR

In the engraving the pilasters of the lower order are about the same height as those above, but in the building there is an appreciable difference, which is an improvement. Other minor differences are the scrolls on either side of the central dormer to the entrance front and the cartouche over the niche containing the statue of Charles the Second. This cartouche was removed a few years ago, as early photographs of the building show it in position, and there is a mark in the frieze where it was secured.

In 1684 the parishioners of St. Margaret's subscribed together for the erection of a new altar piece, which was carried out to Bell's design. The altar space was re-paved in black and white marble squares, arranged in groups after the pattern of a modern crossword puzzle, and approached by four shallow stone steps with moulded nosings. These steps were on three sides of a square, the remaining side being taken up by the holy table and altar piece. At the top of the steps was placed the communion rail supported by neatly carved, turned balusters. The altar piece itself was formed by a range of twelve pilasters with full entablature, forming seven panels ; three at the back and two at either side. Above each panel were carved emblems and devices representative of the Passion. The hangings were of fine purple and crimson cloth. The actual cost of every part was recorded and the total came to £186 3*s.* 7*d.*, which included an item—" To Mr. Bell for drawing the model and surveying the work—£10." A footnote was added—" N.B.—Mr. Bell laid out his £10 in gilding the ornament as I was informed."

When the church was restored in 1874 this fine altar piece was removed completely and sold, and there is no record apart from the few notes in Mackerell's History.

Some twenty years after the completion of this altar piece, Bell designed another for St. Nicholas Chapel. The space here was not so great as at St. Margaret's ; it was 16 feet across by 12 feet deep. The floor, which was approached by two steps, was of freestone with a few squares of black marble interspersed, forming a pattern arranged chequerwise with about three white squares between each black square on the same line. The altar piece itself was divided into three panels, the smaller side ones containing painted figures of Moses and Aaron. The centre panel was raised above the others by a semicircle over which was a pediment. On the top of the pediment was a representation of a winged heart in flames, and under it in gilt letters were the words " Sursum Corda." There was a coffered ceiling to the roof over the altar divided into squares with a carved rosette painted in each in black and purple.

The whole of this work was destroyed when St. Nicholas Chapel was restored in 1852.

Sir John Turner, the donor of the Custom House, commissioned Bell to design a house for him which, being a Vintner, he called the Duke's Head (it is said as a dedication to the Duke of York, afterwards James the Second). This appears to have been completed in 1689, as there is an entry in some old accounts regarding expenses incurred for wine in an adjournment of the authorities to the Duke's Head.

The house has been altered, and is now divided into an hotel and a bank. Originally it was of red brick with stone dressings, and had a narrow entrance with a balcony over. The reproduction of the engraving showing the Tuesday market place in 1797 gives an idea of the appearance it then presented (Fig. 6, *headpiece*). The fine old red bricks are now covered with plaster of a dull grey colour, and the lower part is much altered. Despite these disfigurations it is even now a building of striking character, and symbolises the spacious seventeenth century life of Lynn.

As can be seen from the illustration (Fig. 7), it is a building crowned by a great wooden cornice with carved modillions. The façade is divided into three bays, the centre, which projects slightly, being surmounted by a broken pediment, the chief feature of the building to which everything else is subordinated. The pediment is reminiscent of those at Raynham, designed by Inigo Jones, with which Bell must have been familiar. There is something a little unhappy about the window and the small pediment : they do not seem to be conceived in the same robust spirit as the rest. The carved ornament over the stone mullioned windows is charmingly conceived, and the central window with its pilasters and broken pediment with a cartouche containing the arms of the Turners is a very pleasant piece of work. The reclining amorini with which this pediment was adorned have now, unhappily, disappeared.

The interior contains some fine panelling, in what is now the coffee room of the hotel, with fireplaces which are distinctly Dutch in feeling. A feature of the interior is the broad staircase with its massive handrail and turned balusters. The risers to the steps are carved with a coat of arms.

The Market Cross at Lynn (Fig. 8) was regarded as "one of the handsomest market crosses in the kingdom," and not without reason. Bell had developed a great deal since designing the Custom House, and in this building he produced a charming and novel design conceived in a manner which showed his mastery of Classical Renaissance architecture. There is great ingenuity in the planning and general treatment.

The Corporation, early in 1707, determined to have a new market cross and subscriptions were invited, the Mayor, Charles Turner, a brother of Sir John, contributing £100. The work was started the same year and completed in 1710 at a cost of £396 10*s.*

The cross itself was octagonal on plan and of two storeys, with an attic from which sprang a lead-covered dome containing small dormers and surmounted by a

bell turret and cupola. The crowning feature was not unlike the present turret to the Custom House. The lower storey was surrounded by a peristyle of sixteen Ionic columns carrying an entablature, above which was a wrought iron balustrade guarding the balcony around the upper storey. The alternate faces of this upper storey contained a window set in a panel marked by pilasters carrying an entablature and pediment crowned by an urn. The other faces contained statues in niches over which were placed sundials in a frame around these structures and makes a delightful composition.

There is a discrepancy between the two engravings. Bell's is the smaller and shows the building as a proper octagon, and the general proportions and detail seem better. The urns placed at every available point appear excessive in number, but they would help to soften the outline and carry the eye from one stage to the next. The whole mounts up in a very satisfactory fashion, but the cupola seems just a little attenuated.

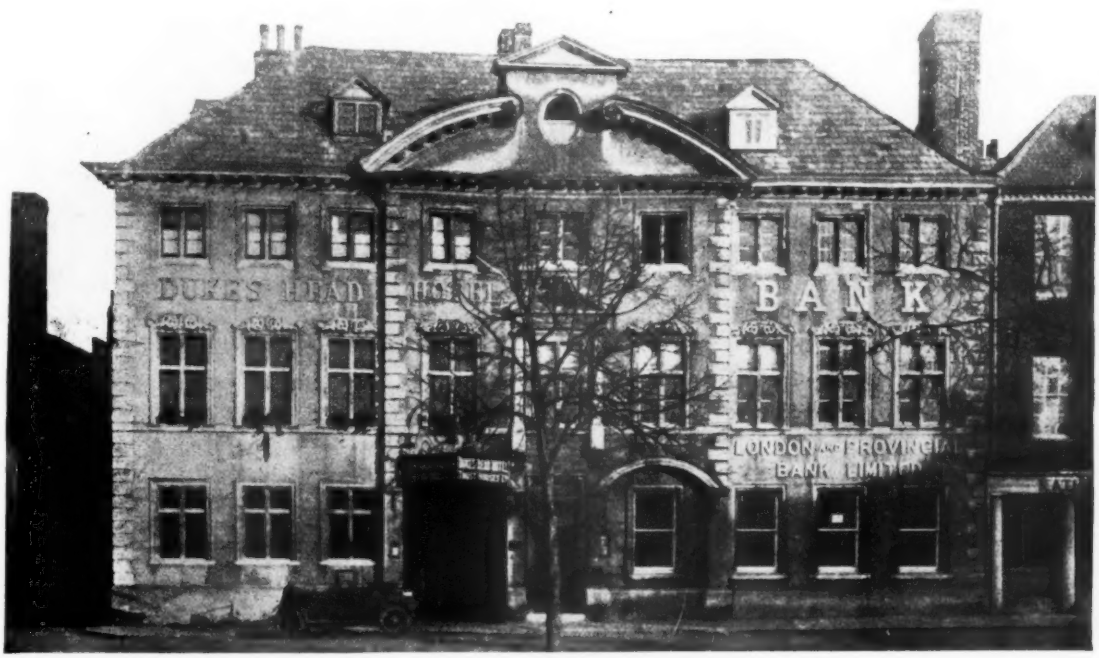

Fig. 7.—The Duke's Head, Lynn
Built for Sir John Turner, 1689

with a curved pediment above. These panels and the pediments to the faces containing windows formed an attic above the principal storey, and this was treated with pilaster strips and a slight cornice and blocking course from which the dome sprang. On either side of this cross were shambles and shops, quadrant shaped on plan. These were divided by posts and the ends were finished with columns and pediments, above which were low turrets. The pediments were carved with emblems suggestive of the uses to which the buildings were put. Goodwin's picture of the Tuesday Market Place in 1814 shows the crowds thronging

This building is in a more mature manner than the Custom House, and is not quite so linear in character, possibly owing to the depth provided by the surrounding peristyle.

Unfortunately the cross was built upon an arch turned over an old wall, and in time the structure began to lean rather ominously. Proposals were on foot in 1826 for erecting a new market house, and in 1829 the Corporation gave orders for Bell's work to be removed. The pulling down, however, did not take place until April 1831, when the old materials were sold by auction for £160. Sir John Ffoulkes bought them and

FIG. 8.—LYNN MARKET CROSS
From an Engraving by H. Bell

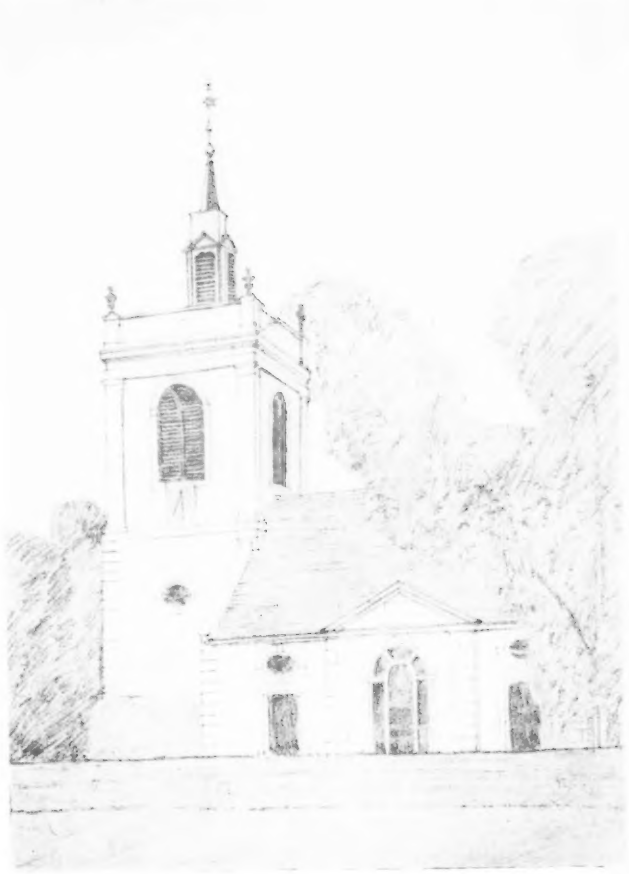

FIG. 9.—NORTH RUNCTON CHURCH
Sketch by the Author

subsequently re-used the stones in the construction of a lodge at Hillington Park. It is said that he sold the lead for more than he gave for the whole building !

At North Runcton, a village some three miles from Lynn, there is a church in the classic manner which is said to be the only village church of its kind in Norfolk. It is the work of Bell, and is a good example of the distinction with which he could invest a building, even when funds were meagre (Fig. 9).

In 1701 the tower of the old church fell and so damaged the remainder of the church that the parishioners thought it beyond repair. By the year 1708 arrangements had been made for the rebuilding, and there is a document preserved in the parish chest which mentions that this would, according to the oaths of experienced workmen, cost at least £824, " which great charge the parishioners were unable to bear," and that they desired to appoint trustees to raise and administer funds. Henry Bell's is the first name mentioned and with his are those of his old friends Charles and John Turner and five others. There is then a memorandum of promised subscriptions, and after sums of £100, £50 and £25 from local gentry and £20 from Trinity College, the owners of the living, comes Henry Bell's signature and the amount of £15. There is then a large number of subscriptions by the people of Lynn, and the neighbourhood, but all of small amount. In the end a further sum appears to have been necessary, for there is another note dated May 1713 appointing John Turner treasurer for a fund " to be employed towards finishing and beautifying the church."

The church is built of Carr stone with brick dressings, and the irregular effect where this has been laid bare indicates that the whole was originally plastered. This plaster remains on the sides, but the tower has been covered with a drab rendering of grey cement. The roof is now covered with machine-made tiles and rises up to the sills of the belfry louvres. Bell designed the building with an M-shaped roof, which came much lower against the tower and bore a better relation to the wall surface below. The original trusses can still be seen, and are interesting examples of eighteenth century carpentry. The vestries on either side of the entrance doorway, which is modern, were originally the porches. The tower, with its rusticated quoins, urns, and turret, is quite pleasing. These urns might, with advantage, have been more substantial, but they serve the purpose of breaking the transition between the square tower and the needle-like turret which is also, perhaps, on the small side.

The interior has been greatly altered, but is still quite interesting. The plan is meant to be a square of about 30 feet 6 inches, and is divided into a large square centre compartment by four Ionic columns placed towards the corners on high pedestals. Outside the centre compartment, which has a domical ceiling formed by two intersecting semicircular vaults, are flat panels, small squares at the corners, and rectangular spaces at the sides and ends. The ribs of the groined vault are decorated with roughly shaped acanthus leaves and cherubs' heads. Originally the church had galleries, but these have been removed ; the marks where they came can still be seen. The single chancel arch has been replaced by three unequal arches on stumpy Ionic columns. The carving to the caps of the large Ionic columns is coarsely executed and suggests the paucity of funds. The caps are almost identical in design with those to the upper pilasters of the Custom House. An organ chamber has been built off the south side of the chancel, the window opening being carried down to the floor to serve as an entrance.

The altar piece gives some idea of those at Lynn which have been destroyed. It is of Corinthian pilasters with entablature and divided into five panels, three at the east end. The panels now contain tapestries by Lamponi of Florence. The woodwork is ebonised and the enriched mouldings and ornament picked out in gilt. The centre panel, which is wider than the others and arched, must have originally formed a frame to the window which can be seen outside.

There is a house with wreathed columns to the entrance doorway, which, from its fine proportion and general style, appears to have been designed by Bell. This house, known as Clifton House, is in Queen Street, and, as the date on the rainwater head shows, was erected in 1708 (Fig. 10). Its resemblance to the Duke's Head can clearly be seen ; it follows the same principles of design, having the general mass divided into three bays crowned by a powerful modillioned cornice, with a central feature to which everything else is contributory. The wings retreat from the centre bay, which projects about nine inches, on a slight cant, and are spaced off by plain pilaster strips, without base or capital, and almost flush with the wall except for their beaded edges. The south wing was never carried above the ground storey, and the openings have now been altered and this part dissociated from the house and used for offices. There is a high plinth, above which are two tiers of sash windows set almost flush with the brickwork, without any sill other than the oak ones, which do not project beyond the wall. The sashes to these windows are divided into rather small squares by very stout glazing bars, evidently original ones, which seem to carry on the solidity of the wall surface. The duality of the windows may be regarded as a small fault, but, if the upper ones had been made shorter, they would probably have called attention to the windows themselves, which were only regarded as incidentals in the background, which was to act as a foil to the whimsically treated doorway. This doorway, with its

barley sugar columns of the composite order, and its modillioned cornice and curved pediment, gives a touch of Baroque exuberance to the otherwise sober and restrained design. It is so beautifully set in relation to the surrounding brickwork that, without undue accentuation, it acts as the point of interest to a particularly fine piece of street architecture.

Through this doorway there is a fine vista down to another door, with a broken pediment in which is a bust. This is the Renaissance doorway to an old Tudor watch tower, which is now more or less derelict. The real entrance to the house is immediately to the right of the archway leading out of the main entrance, and cannot be seen from the street. From this one enters a lobby, from which there is a flight of steps narrowing, with a very pleasing effect, towards an archway leading to the main hall and staircase.

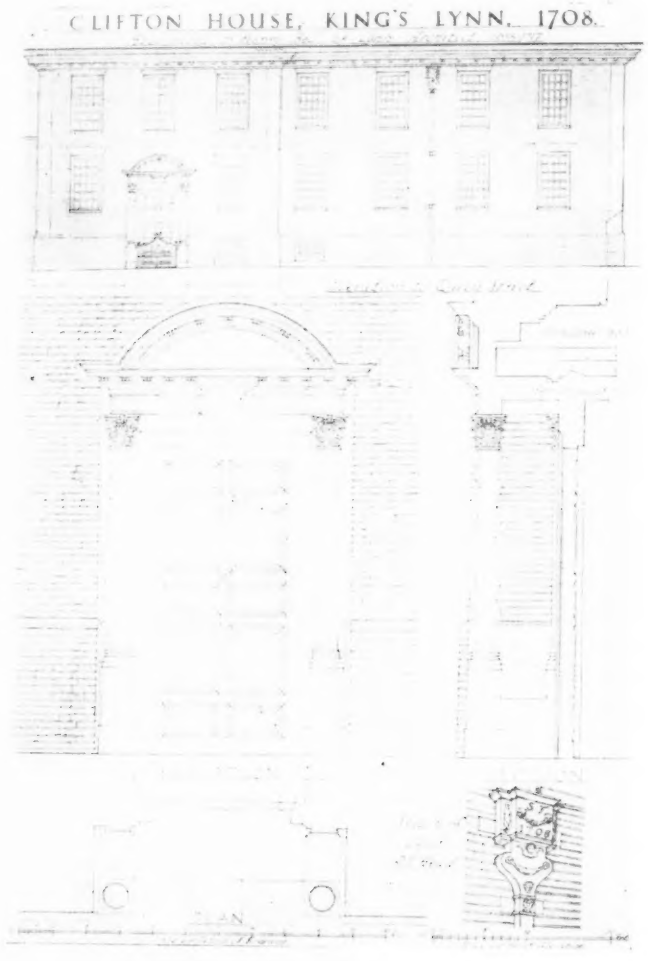

FIG. 10.—MEASURED AND DRAWN BY THE AUTHOR

The general plan of the house is L-shaped, the kitchen and service wing running at right angles to the front, where the rooms are at a high level. The door from the lower lobby opens on to the staircase which leads up to the attics. In the attics there is some

simply moulded panelling, but no windows. The windows must have been filled in, but there is no trace of where they came. Another curious thing is that some of the rooms have stone flagged floors. This seems extraordinary, but may have been a common practice, as a thick bed of sand was found to the floors of the attics in another house in the High Street.

In the main hall are two fine doors with architrave, cornice, and pediment, and there are four other doors on the first floor above, but these have not been singled out for pediments. All these doors have masks which are carved in a very vigorous manner, more in accord with Gothic than Renaissance work.

The back part of the house was built before Bell's time, and some of the upper rooms contained very rich Jacobean chimney pieces, which have been cleared out and sold.

The rainwater head which dates the building is most interesting and is embellished with ornament dear to the heart of the Renaissance craftsman. The queer little figures on the side pieces, however, have quite a Jacobean look. The fashioner of this head evidently took a great delight in the work.

There is a stone-fronted house in King Street which, from its perfect proportion and refinement of detail, might have been by Bell. It is in the Palladian manner, and shows none of the marked individuality of his other work, but it is possible that he was following the prevailing fashion which then inclined towards academic correctness. The date of this house would be about 1714, two or three years before Bell's death. The front is of Ketton stone weathered almost black. There was originally a balustraded parapet, but this has been removed, only the plinth now remaining, and this is disintegrating badly. The top is now covered with a coping of blue bricks. The interior contains nothing of interest ; the hall and stairs seem much later than Bell's time, but they may have been altered.

A similar house used to stand in St. Anne's Street, but was pulled down about 1895. Bell is thought to have been responsible for the centre part, which was attached to a much older house. The part attributed to Bell was of stone.

Apart from new work, Bell must have made additions or alterations to quite a number of houses, but it is not possible to assign any other work to him with any degree of certainty.

A house in the High Street known as Burlingham's has a stone front with similar detail to the house in King Street, but rather heavier. It also, originally, possessed a stone balustrade. On the second floor of this house are two fine Jacobean fireplaces and a staircase with interesting balusters. The Renaissance panelling from another room has recently been sold to America. On the first floor over the shop is the former music room, the walls of which are treated with simple panelling. The end of this room has a chimney-piece with a carved head of Apollo, and musical emblems. The whole is in pine, and the mouldings generally are enriched by carving. This work is early eighteenth century in date, and it is possible that the design may have been furnished by Bell.

FIG. 11.—GREEN'S MONUMENT, ST. NICHOLAS CHAPEL, LYNN

Sir Charles Turner, a nephew of Sir John Turner who built the Custom House, built a country house at Warham, in 1709. This was probably designed by Bell, but was pulled down by the Earl of Leicester and there are no plans or records extant.

There is a monument on the wall of the south chancel aisle of St. Nicholas Chapel, for which Bell is thought to have been responsible. It was then the custom for an architect to furnish designs for the architecturally treated frame to figures to be executed by the sculptor. This surround is very much the same in general character as the central window to the Duke's Head. The sculptured work is of a very high order, and is expressive of the unbending character of a rich seventeenth century merchant and his dutiful wife (Fig. 11).

The entrance doorway to Raynham Hall has now been proved to have been added subsequent to Inigo Jones's work. Some old drawings were found, in which the entrance front is shown with a small doorway at either end, and a window in place of the present entrance door. There is a note on the accompanying plans about the Duke of Monmouth's lodging, which shows that the drawings were made before 1685. These drawings are in the R.I.B.A. Library, and were the subject of an article by Sir Reginald Blomfield.

It is extremely likely that Bell was acquainted with the work at Raynham, and as he was undoubtedly well known in the county he may have provided the design for the new entrance. The Corinthian columns of this doorway are rather slender, and this is a characteristic of Bell's work as instanced by the pilasters to the upper storey of the Custom House and the central window to the Duke's Head. There is also the same sort of cartouche and broken pediment with scroll ends which occur at the Duke's Head.

This doorway has all the charm and freshness of Bell's work and is what one would expect of him.

The influence of Bell is not perceptible in the later work in Lynn. There are many quite well-proportioned buildings dating from after his death, but they lack the charm and distinction which characterised his work.

It is a great pity that so little of Bell's work remains, and that he had not wider opportunities. Most of his buildings are of modest dimensions, and it would have been interesting to see how he could handle large projects. In the design of the Market Cross he gave some idea of the interest he could impart to grouped buildings, but he does not appear to have had any great opportunities such as fell to the lot of the well-known London architects. Whether he would have proved himself capable of great conceptions is a matter for speculation ; his executed work undoubtedly possesses qualities which entitle him to rank as a master architect.

In general arrangement Bell seemed content to follow the usual practice. It was in the whimsical treatment and placing of accepted features that his originality lay. Bell was not averse, however, to using exactly the same features in different designs, and many of his details were just the ordinary ones in common use. This is rather interesting and worthy of notice. It shows that so long as the component parts of a design form a truly harmonious whole, with just a little piquancy, the use of traditional elements does not detract from the interest of the composition. This use also establishes a bond of understanding between the artist and the beholder of his works, and if the artist be a man of any character at all his personality must colour the handling of his work, and give it that touch of pleasing novelty without which it could not rank as art.

[The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance he has received from Beloe's *King's Lynn—Our Borough, Our Churches, Mackerell's History of Lynn*, 1737, *Hillen's History of Lynn, Norfolk County History* and various smaller works.

The author's thanks are due to Mr. E. M. Beloe for permission to reproduce the illustrations appearing in his father's work, and to Mr. L. Edmund Walker, who very kindly provided the other photographs, which were specially taken, as well as to the various officials and residents who allowed their buildings to be viewed and measured.

He also wishes to acknowledge the facilities granted him at the King's Lynn Borough Library and the Library of the Royal Institute of British Architects.]

Modern Construction in Shanghai

BY PHILIP S. HUDSON [*A.*].

The intention of the writer of the following notes is to endeavour to give a brief general idea of the methods and materials in use at the present day for the erection of new edifices in the International Settlement of Shanghai. Situated as it is at the mouth of the great Yangtsze river, it constitutes the "Gateway to China," consequently this city is rapidly developing on a soil that may be compared to rather stiff dough. Bearing this in mind, it is at once evident that foundation work presents new and interesting problems for the architect's solution. In the old days, when buildings consisted of one, two, or three storeys, foundations were a fairly simple matter, but it soon became obvious that to meet the demand for higher buildings more extensive piling would be necessary.

During excavations for rebuilding it has been found that in the former case, 4 in. to 6 in. round wooden poles with a length of 6-8 feet had been successfully employed—a tradition of the Chinese builder. With the low bearing capacity of the Shanghai soil the use of reinforced concrete for spread footings was definitely limited. Oregon pine piles, not exceeding 25 to 28 feet long can be driven cheaply by the native pile-driving gang, but for deeper piling work this method is doubtful economy.

The next step was to use the raft system in the form of an inverted reinforced concrete floor, with beams and slabs connected to the columns and walls of the proposed building, thus developing the full bearing value of the soil over the entire area of the building. This, at first, would appear to solve the problem, but in places the ground is even more unstable, and in the case of buildings loaded unsymmetrically, they would become precarious structures. It is, therefore, usual to increase the bearing value of the raft by heavy piling. Two methods are employed for accomplishing this object, viz.:—(1) Oregon pine piles, and (2) Reinforced concrete piles. With the latter these can be pre-cast and therefore inspected before being driven, or cast in place by first driving a steel pile surrounded by metal casing to the depth required. The steel pile is then drawn out and the casing filled with concrete. This latter method requires more skill and is generally the most satisfactory. Oregon pine, or other wooden piling, is driven by the usual method. It seems surprisingly easy in Shanghai to drive long piles as compared with the weight which they will eventually safely carry. Oregon piling is cheaper where extreme depth is required, and so long as the ground water level remains above the pile head it is not unreasonable to suppose that it will last as long as any other.

Engineers in Shanghai have applied themselves with success to this foundation problem, but with the demand for bigger commercial and other buildings may yet have to devise more specific solutions. Meanwhile, regulations for fire-proof buildings have been made more stringent and it is now usual for all buildings of any importance to be of fire-proof construction. Reinforced concrete is used more frequently than steel construction although great progress is being made with this latter material. The first large steel-framed building was erected about 1914, and since that date several important edifices on the Bund have been steel framed. Many fire-proof buildings are of mixed construction, e.g., both reinforced concrete and steel having been used. Up to the present all structural steel for these buildings has been completely fabricated in the homelands and on delivery at Shanghai has then been assembled on the site.

With regard to bricks and brickwork, the ordinary Chinese brick is of poor quality, being usually badly burned, but in former times it served fairly well and even now can still, with care, be used for brick filling with modern reinforced concrete beams or steelwork, but it is not of sufficiently good quality for a modern facing brick. Recently, however, better bricks have been made by the local Chinese makers. Good, but expensive bricks are made in North China, but are costly when used in Shanghai, owing to transport. The range of texture of locally-made face bricks is not equal to those of brick factories at home. Most good walling is now laid in cement mortar.

Floor surfaces in use are very much the same as at home; the materials usually being imported from abroad.

The early buildings were floored with Singapore red wood or teak. Nowadays oak, imported maple and other varieties from the Philippines can be obtained.

The roofs in early days consisted chiefly of corrugated iron, or the old Chinese tile; modern tiles of western type are now being used externally and the use of the former materials is gradually dying out in the International Settlement. For the flat roof, the built up roofing of felt and asphalte is chiefly used. Shingles of asbestos or other hard manufactured material are now available for the architect's use. Industry in the slate-producing regions of China has for some time been in a state of unrest, and it has therefore been impossible to use this material. On the whole, Shanghai has kept pace with the times in the matter of roofing materials.

Plastering is one of the architect's chief difficulties. The wily Chinese plasterer delights in using a suspicious-looking mixture of what appears to be common garden mud and water; lime is, of course, supposed to be added, but, unless careful supervision is given, the native workman seems strangely forgetful about this ingredient. Rice straw is used for binding.

The ground water level in Shanghai is only some 3 or 4 feet from the surface, which calls for special precautions in the cases of basements, boiler rooms, etc. These are met by the provision of integral waterproofing in concrete floors and walls of the spaces that are below the water level. This is satisfactory, provided there is intensive supervision during the placing of the concrete. Another method is to place layers of roofing felt and asphalte to protect the areas affected. Sometimes both systems are used in combination.

At certain periods of the year high winds and an excessive driving rain are very frequent, and this necessi-

tates some treatment of water-proofing exterior walls. Hollow brick walls might be used more advantageously, or some damp proofing externally and internally before the plastering is commenced. There are, however, a variety of trade preparations available for this purpose.

The extremely damp heat of the Shanghai summer plays havoc with joinery, and therefore the steel casement and sash are being widely used as they stand the excessive rise and fall of temperature. This also reduces the maintenance cost of the building.

The steel sashes, chiefly used in the best work, are imported from home, although recently one or two Chinese companies have placed a cheaper type of steel sash on the market, but so far the results are not entirely satisfactory. For good glass it is very necessary to use imported material.

Practically, all woods for finishing work are brought from the Philippines or Singapore. Luen wood is used extensively; it takes a fine polish and works well.

As regards good hardware, it is again necessary to buy from the overseas markets, although there are many inferior and cheap lines to be obtained locally.

The Chinese plumbing contractors are to be shunned severely as their work is almost certain to be unsatisfactory. This trade can be let as a sub-contract to one of the many reliable western firms who use fittings and materials brought from abroad. It is, however, a difficult matter to get Chinese fitters to work to the standard necessary for a thoroughly dependable scheme of plumbing.

The same remarks apply to electrical contracts, as the local market is flooded with bad materials and cheap labour, notwithstanding the wide and increasing use of electricity in the office and home.

Of all the building trades that of carpentry is perhaps the one at which the native artisan excels. When a full size detail of joinery or stonework is received from the architect's office it is his general practice to draw out the whole detail again on boarding or plywood, which can then be checked and any improvement necessary effected.

Generally, in spite of the widespread disorder and inefficiency of China, it is possible to obtain very high class work, but it needs both constant supervision and patience on the part of the architect and his European clerk of works. Ample time must also be allowed for materials and fittings to be obtained from overseas. Schedules for these are prepared some months ahead of the actual starting of the building.

Most Chinese managers and foremen have a slight knowledge of English, and not a few are willing to learn western methods of setting out and construction.

The Slum Problem*

BY DR. RAYMOND UNWIN [*F.*]

These are two very different books on the same subject, each with its purpose and its merits.

Mr. Townroe has written a readable volume about the Slum Problem, intended to provide information likely to be helpful to those who are trying to deal with the problem. It is a wide survey of the subject, and its relation to other aspects of housing and city building, rather than a deep study of causes, or of methods for the removal of the slums. Mr. E. D. Simon, on the other hand, in "How to Abolish Slums," puts forward definite proposals for an early solution, and all his chapters lead up to, and focus on, these proposals.

From Mr. Townroe's book the reader will learn generally "What is a Slum"; very shortly, the "History of Slums," and some account of what has been accomplished since 1919 in clearing and rebuilding slums, by the London County Council and other local authorities. There is also a useful and sympathetic account of how the work is carried out by many voluntary housing associations, the great social and experimental value of which is not diminished by the relatively small total of dwellings erected. For the slum problem is a complex one; it is not a building problem only, but a poverty problem; not only a social problem, but one touching human nature and moral relationships in their most intimate sphere—the home. Many useful aspects of this complex problem are brought before the reader in the different chapters of this book. It contains useful reminders of the destructive tenant; the ease with which the downward tendency in tenant and dwelling will react on each other and quicken the descent to slum conditions. In this connection there is a short, but useful, chapter on the special fitness of women for managers and rent collectors for small dwellings, and on Miss Octavia Hill's pioneer work, the full value of which still awaits adequate recognition. The importance of town planning, and the indirect, but essential, relief which may be given to slum pressure through its wise use, and through the development of garden cities are adequately dealt with. On all these varied aspects of the problem Mr. Townroe has gathered useful information and presents it in a concise and interesting way.

Some individual aspects and examples of the American slum problem are given; but justice is hardly done to the difference of outlook and conditions in the two countries, nor to the inexorable economic pressure which is forcing the American housing re-

* *The Slum Problem.* By B. S. Townroe, M.A., Hon. A.R.I.B.A. Longmans Green & Co. 6s.
How to Abolish the Slums. By E. D. Simon. Longmans Green & Co. 2s. 6d.

former to recognise that the provision of adequate housing for the poorer sections of their people is not a paying proposition. We are accustomed to regard America as a country of unlimited prosperity; yet the following statement was made at the recent National Housing Conference in Philadelphia: "The distribution of income and the cost of building are such that only a third of the population can afford to buy or rent a new house. . . ." "Any radical improvement implies the building of a huge number of houses and the scrapping of a large number of old ones. This will never be done by private business initiative, because not even the middle group, much less the lowest one, can pay a profit on a new house." The emphasis, it should be noticed, is on the *new* house. Rapidly changing conditions, expansion of towns, and increasing wealth of citizens, have provided so many "cast off" dwellings for the poorer people to begin life in, that the above facts, which were forced on our attention years ago, are only now being realised in America as greater stability of conditions reduces the relative volume of "cast off" dwellings. Hence the American housing reformer is being driven into the paths which we have had to tread, leading to dependence on philanthropic low interest capital, cheap loans backed by municipal and national credit, and ultimately indirect and direct assistance, to meet the need which unaided private enterprise is unable to supply.

This fundamental aspect of the housing problem is not fully faced by Mr. Townroe. His dislike of all forms of subsidy is very apparent, and the wish to be without them seems to beget in his mind the thought that they are not necessary, which he quite fails to justify. This attitude leads him at times to do less than justice to the efforts made to tackle the housing problem in conditions where dwellings could not be built without financial assistance, or to the part played by subsidy in securing the results. The statement on page 2, "but we cannot forget how, under Mr. Lloyd George, prices of cottage houses increased in many cases from £400 to £1,400," is grotesquely misleading. From the description of Sir John Tudor Walter's very valuable contribution on page 123, and the remark, "It shows that subsidies are unnecessary," it would hardly be gathered that subsidies were, in fact, paid on these houses. It is rather unconvincing to write of "nine years' bitter experience of housing subsidies" on page 198, and a few pages later, page 206, to write with pride "no other country in the world in proportion to the size can point to over 1,200,000 new houses built since the Armistice." A direct result of the "bitter experience" which seems to call for a different adjective.

It is to the difficult problem of providing houses for slum dwellers, who cannot pay a rent which would remunerate private enterprise for erecting them, that Mr. E. D. Simon has devoted his attention in "How to Abolish Slums." He examines the standards of overcrowding and seeks to estimate the extent of the slum problem. He sets out the cost of erecting dwellings, and the rents which would meet the costs; and, comparing these with the incomes of the labouring classes and the rents they can pay, shows that there is a wide gap which must be bridged between the two if houses are to be provided. He then examines types of subsidy, their relative efficiency and cost, and advocates that the Wheatley subsidy be continued without further diminution, and that it be supplemented by a children's rent allowance of 1s. per week per child for families having three or more children and an income of less than 60s. per week. This is a serious proposal for dealing with an admittedly serious evil. The difficulties of the children's rent allowance are admittedly great; whether the proposal, as made, will prove to be the best form of assistance may be doubted. In focussing attention and discussion on forms of financial assistance other than subsidies on building, however, Mr. Simon is meeting changed conditions more logically than he quite makes clear perhaps. While building costs were clearly inflated owing to war conditions, a building subsidy to meet the temporary inflation of costs on which no permanent rent return could be expected, was the natural and straightforward method of assistance most likely to stimulate building. But as post-war costs of living and building prices approach stable conditions, and the problem becomes more simply one of bridging the gap between a normal cost for a minimum dwelling, and ability to pay the needful rents, there are many sound reasons for thinking that some other form of assistance, more directly related to this aspect of the problem, may be better adapted to the purpose, more effective in proportion to outlay, and less disturbing to the building industry. If these two volumes are read together they will usefully supplement and correct each other, and the reader should be in a position to appreciate the problem. Together they convey a much truer appreciation of the needs and the difficulties arising from the problem of the slums than either of them separately affords.

The Library

NOTES ON RECENT FOREIGN PERIODICALS.

By GRAHAME B. TUBBS [*A.*].

The Architectural Forum has borrowed an idea from the American daily newspapers and has divided itself into parts—one being given over to architectural design and the other to the engineering and business sides of architecture. The February issue is an exceptionally full one; Mr. Randall Phillips describes two Cornish

villages which are well illustrated ; there are plans and photographs of the new Ford Nurses' Home at Detroit, which is most luxuriously furnished and appointed, while the Detroit Institute of Arts, by Paul Cret and his associates (which cost four million dollars) is the subject of an article. This is the " last word " in the planning of buildings of this kind, and a considerable advance has been made on the system, which originated in Germany and Switzerland, of displaying period exhibits in rooms specially decorated in their own style. The second part of the article, on the " Rejuvenescence of Wrought Iron," is continued from last month ; the greater part of the illustrations are from the work of Raymond Subes, most of them being from the new liner, " Ile de France." In the business section the important question of continuing building work during frosty weather is considered, and the methods adopted in America, including braziers and temporary steam heating plants, are described. It is realised that such methods can go a long way to reduce seasonal fluctuations in the building trade, much to the advantage of all concerned. A chart of building, in progress and projected, is given, and it is pointed out that 1928 was a " record " year for the building trade in the United States.

A fine group of buildings on a sloping site and surrounding an auditorium, is the chief feature of *The Architectural Record* for February. It is in connection with the Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania, and was designed by Messrs. Mellor and Meigs. From the photographs, this scheme would seem to be notable for the very fine craftsmanship displayed in its execution, the ironwork being especially remarkable ; it appears to be a building of exceptional interest and charm. The rest of this magazine is devoted to data concerned with multi-storeyed garage buildings, the methods of vertical communication receiving special attention, as this is a fundamental problem of the parking-garage. The methods described include circular ramps outside the building, concentric spiral—double spiral—and straight ramps, as well as the staggered-floor plan with slopes between. There are several ingenious methods of applying lifts to this class of building, but they are not recommended unless it is certain that most of the customers will not be wanting their cars at the same time, as would be the case in the office or theatre districts. In *Architecture*, Mr. Moritz Kahn writes on " The Architect and Industrial Buildings," and his article is illustrated by a number of photographs of fine American plants, but no plans are reproduced. Several features of this magazine are continued from last month, and include a further section for an architect's working library, a series of fireplaces of the English type, some being contemporary American work and others authentic examples, while Messrs. Robertson and Yerbury's pictorial review of modern European Architecture is concerned with the Olympic Games Stadium at Amsterdam and the new Recreation Centre at Frankfort.

The American Architect, of 20th February, gives up practically the whole of its space to the huge new Fisher building at Detroit, designed by Albert Kahn, Inc. This enormous building is of eleven storeys, but part is taken up as a tower, and contains 28 floors. To it is attached a garage of 11 floors, to house 1,100 cars, intended principally for the use of the tenants, and the interior of the site is used for a theatre, seating 2,800, which is approached by an arcade with shops on either side. The decorations are most lavish, and the architects were given a free hand by the clients, expense not being considered ; consequently the best artists were employed to execute the details. In spite of this, the building as a whole does not impress one as being amongst the most successful of recent American skyscrapers. In *Pencil Points* for February Mr. Freese continues the description of his interesting method of making perspectives, which he calls " Perspective Projection." This second part shows his method of putting curved surfaces into perspective.

The Hon. Vincent Massey's address, at the opening of the Toronto Architectural Exhibition, is given in full in the February number of *The Journal of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada*, and it is obvious that the Minister has a sympathetic appreciation of architecture. In this number Professor Ramsay Traquair writes about another early Eighteenth Century French-Canadian church, St. Pierre, on the island of Orleans, Quebec.

Among the German publications, *Wasmuths Monats Hefte für Baukunst*, as usual, takes a distinguished place. The February number illustrates E. G. Asplund's new State Library of Stockholm. This is a building of the greatest severity, the circular reading room being without ornament inside and out, the only relief to the plain walls being the square-headed clerestory windows and a slight cornice, which forms a finish to the exterior. It is flat-topped, and one must confess that, from the photograph, it reminds one of a gasometer !

In the March number, a new building by Fritz Schumacher, at Hamburg, is shown. This is a large building of brick, in which a fine effect is obtained with the greatest economy of means ; the general effect is a free and fresh adaptation of Eighteenth Century work. In the same number is illustrated a number of new buildings erected in Moscow. They are of concrete and glass and are in line with the less extreme modernist work on the Continent, being straightforward and not consciously eccentric. *Deutsch Kunst und Dekoration* for March makes a feature of Herr Bruno Paul's attractive house at Nikolassee, which has a good setting and fine furniture and decoration. In the February number of *Innen Dekoration* there are several houses, the best, possibly, being by Professor Paul Schmitthenner.

Père Bellot is a Benedictine monk who, before he took the vows, was trained in the École des Beaux Arts, and became a *diplomé*. Having become a monk, he was required to give up architecture, but shortly afterwards he was allowed to work under another Beaux-Arts-trained Benedictine, Père Mellet (who had obtained a Second Grand Prix) ; his work is the subject of an article in the February number of *L'Architecture*. When the Religious Orders were expelled from France, they took up their quarters abroad, and in many cases it was necessary to build monastries to house the Brethren and Sisters ; this was Père Bellot's opportunity. His first work was at Oosterhout, in Holland, and it was here that he learned to use brick, in which material most of his

subsequent work was carried out. The buildings that he designed at Quarr Abbey, Isle of Wight, and in Holland and Belgium, shows how completely he had mastered the technique of this material.

In the Anglo-Spanish magazine, *Arquitectura Española : Spanish Architecture* for April–June, 1928, are drawings and photographs of " Goya's Corner " at Saragossa, which consists of a library and museum in a charming garden, and was established as part of the Goya Centenary celebrations. The building apparently is constructed of ferro-concrete. The same material is used for a large office building in Madrid, whose façade is specially arranged so that it can be let out for illuminated advertisements. In the other Spanish magazine, *Arquitectura* (Madrid) for January, there is a long article on the Court of the Lions in the Alhambra, by the architect in charge, and Herr Bruno Taut's two garden villages, Britz and Zehlendorf, near Berlin, are described.

Correspondence

CHINGFORD OLD CHURCH, ESSEX.

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings,
20 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, London, W.C.2.
28th March 1929.

To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.—

SIR,—The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings is interesting itself in the re-roofing of Chingford Old Church, Essex. Most of your readers will be aware that this roof and the south arcade fell in 1904, and that since then the walls have fallen into worse and worse decay.

Before undertaking the repair, the Society and the architect in charge of the work, Mr. C. C. Winmill, have taken pains to discover whatever evidence exists of the original arrangement of the arcade and roof. Quite recently some excellent measured drawings of the Church, made by Mr. A. Crow, F.R.I.B.A., in 1883 have come to hand, but these drawings do not show the construction of the roof. If any architect happens to have drawings of the roof or of the interior of the Church, we should be most grateful to him for permission to see them.—I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,

A. R. POWYS,
Secretary.

SWAKELEYS, ICKENHAM, MIDDLESEX.

The London Survey Committee,
Lancaster House, St. James's, S.W.1.
30th March 1929.

To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.—

DEAR SIR,—With reference to the accounts that have been appearing recently of the purchase of Swakeleys, Ickenham, Middlesex, by the Foreign Office as a Sports Club, my Committee ask me to announce that they propose to make this house the subject of their thirteenth Monograph.

The volume (which will be quarto) will be published in the course of the present summer, and in addition to giving a full historical and architectural description of the house, will be illustrated by photographs, sketches, reproductions of old prints and a complete set of measured drawings of the house as it is at the present day.

I shall be very glad to send particulars, later on, of the price, etc., to any of your readers who may be interested in the publication if they will communicate with me.—Yours faithfully. PERCY LOVELL, *Secretary.*

WATER IN A VAULT.

3 *April,* 1929.

To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.—

DEAR SIR,—My attention has been called to a letter—" Water in a Vault "—in your issue of 9 March.

I have been troubled with a somewhat, but not quite similar case. My case is that of an above ground Mausoleum, built of 4½ inch brickwork with 9 inch corner columns, reinforced and faced each side with ⅝ inch cement, 1 inch marble panels outside, roof of ferro-concrete ; provided with ventilators. I have been unable to decide definitely whether the moisture collecting on walls and ceiling is due to condensation and insufficient ventilation to prevent that, or to sweating or drying out of the cement and concrete. I have thought of interlining throughout with a fibrous material such as " Celotex." If you have received any replies to the letter above named, which might also be of assistance in this case, I should be greatly obliged for the information. Thanking you.—Yours very truly, F. W.

CHARLES LOUIS CLÉRISSEAU

The Institute Collection of Original Drawings has recently been added to by the presentation by Mr. Sydney Kitson (*Hon. Secretary*) of an original drawing by Clérisseau of the Porta Aurea at Spalato, which appears as a frontispiece to the current number of the JOURNAL. Clérisseau was a typical artist and architectural draughtsman of the 17th and early 18th century, that is to say, he excelled both as an architect and as a painter. Born at Paris in 1722, he won the Grand Prix in 1746 (the subject being an hotel) ; he later visited Rome, where he lived for some time, and became friendly with Winckelmann and other contemporary artists. There he also met Robert Adam, the Scots architect, and accompanied him, first to Venice, and later to Spalato, where he made the drawings for Adams' well-known work on " The Ruins of Spalatro." The drawing presented by Mr. Kitson is one of the original drawings which Clérisseau made for this work. The figures which appear in the engraving (by P. Santini) in the book were added by Antonio du Zucchi, A.R.A. (1726–1795), a friend of and assistant to the brothers Adam, whom he accompanied to Italy, and subsequently he decorated some of their buildings in England (ceilings at Osterley Park, Ken Wood, etc.). Clérisseau also visited England with the Adams, where he remained for five years, but returned to France in 1776, where he designed the Palais de Justice at Metz. In 1783 we find him appointed architect to the Empress Catherine of Russia for whom he designed a palace on the plan of those designed by the Roman Emperors. A drawing by Clérisseau of Tivoli (made in 1769) is in the collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum. He died in 1820 at the great age of ninety-nine. The Institute is greatly indebted to Mr. Kitson for his generous gift. R. D.

New Premises for the R.I.B.A.

REPORT OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING ON MONDAY, 18 MARCH 1929.
STATEMENT BY LT.-COLONEL P. A. HOPKINS.

At a Special General Meeting held on Monday, 18 March 1929, immediately after the Business General Meeting, the President, Mr. Walter Tapper, A.R.A., in the chair.

The President announced that the meeting had been summoned for the purpose of considering resolutions authorising the Council to purchase premises situated in Portland Place, W.1, as a site for the erection of new premises for the R.I.B.A., and called upon Lt.-Col. P. A. Hopkins to explain the resolutions.

Lieut.-Colonel P. A. HOPKINS [*L.*]: Mr. President and gentlemen. Before I put the resolution, may I be allowed to say a few words to show the necessity we are faced with of finding new premises?

This Institute was founded very nearly one hundred years ago. It started in small premises in Covent Garden. Within a very few years the membership had so increased that a move had to be made to larger premises in Grosvenor Street. Then, within about twenty years, still larger premises were required and a further move was made to Conduit Street. Only a portion of the Conduit Street premises was at first required, but the membership continued to grow and more accommodation had to be taken over, with the result that, just prior to the amalgamation of the Society of Architects with the Institute, the whole of the premises comprised in No. 9 Conduit Street and adjoining property, which was acquired in the interim, was fully occupied and made use of. Four years ago the Society was absorbed by the Institute, and that meant a large accession to its membership. The result was that the premises, already used to their full extent, were found inadequate for the work necessitated by this large addition to the membership. The Premises Committee were faced with the necessity of finding further accommodation. They considered, first of all, the possibility of making additions to these premises. That not being feasible, they came to the conclusion the only thing to do was to pull down and re-build, if possible, on our present site. The site we now occupy is a very awkwardly shaped one, and most difficult to plan, but our then Honorary Secretary, Mr. Arthen Keen, took a great deal of trouble, and spent a lot of time in preparing plans showing how the necessary accommodation could be provided on this site. I think I am right in saying that although he was able to provide sufficient accommodation for our then needs, it did not allow any great surplus for future extension. That being so, the Premises Committee came to the decision that, to provide really adequate accommodation and make allowance for any further extension that might be required by reason of our growing in numbers—which we had every right to presume would be the case—the only thing to do was to look for a new site on which to erect a new building. For the last three years we have been looking for a site. We tried, at first, individually; we did not wish to make it too public. That not being successful, we invited the co-operation of various agents in the West End. Many sites were submitted to us. We selected the most promising of these, and members of the Committee inspected and reported upon something like one hundred sites. Unfortunately, of these sites not one really met our full requirements. We could not find the ideal site. One or two we nearly fixed upon; there was one quite near here which at first seemed to be just what we required; but when we came down to the facts we found that the price given us by the agents was only about 50 per cent. of that required to purchase the site, so we had to let that go, it being beyond our means. It was when we were all feeling rather disappointed that, although the Howard de Walden Estate had already been approached, I thought—having had business with the estate on several occasions in the past—I might as well worry them again. Accordingly I called, and, in the course of a long interview, I found that all possible sites, so far as they could tell, had already been offered to agents who had applied on our behalf. I explained, more in detail, what our requirements were. I said, "If you can possibly find us a site, say, in Portland Place, a corner site for preference, containing about 15,000 feet super., we would be prepared to buy that from you up to, say, £70,000, or pay you an equivalent ground rent, which might be in the neighbourhood of £3,000 a year." It was my hope that, having rather more definite information as to our requirements, there might be a prospect of finding something. Anyway, shortly after, we had the offer of a site, with a frontage to Portland Place, of over 100 feet, and a frontage to Weymouth Street of over 140 feet, containing an area of just over 15,000 feet. I understand the value placed upon that site by the surveyor is in the neighbourhood of £75,000. Taking the ground rent at 5 per cent. on capital value of the site would give a ground rent of £3,750.

I do not want to take up your time by explaining what happened at the various interviews I was granted with Colonel Blount, the estate surveyor, but the result is this: The estate offered us this site on the following terms: 99 years from 6 July 1931, the rent to be: 6 July 1931–32, £500 a year; July 1932 to 1938, £1,500 a year; 1938–43, £1,750 a year. The estate would not sell the freehold, they would only deal with us on the basis of ground rent. Although the de Walden Estate Committee had recently decided they would not consider the granting of any more leases beyond 99 years, they have made an exception in our case, and that period has since been extended to 999 years. No doubt, some of you will be wondering where is the snag? There was a snag, or an apparent one, in that this is not a cleared site, and there are several sitting tenants: four in Weymouth Street, and four in Portland Place. The Weymouth Street leases run out in 1931, so that, so far as they are concerned, we need not worry, because our lease will not

start until 1931. With regard to that, I will say something later. The corner site leases, 62 and 64 Portland Place, do not run out until 1943, but the two further ones, 66 and 68, run out in 1938.

I only want to give you now, in round figures, the result of my calculations ; should anybody wish to see the detail working, I shall be pleased to show him afterwards. The Estate had in mind that we might have to pay somewhere in the neighbourhood of £25,000 to acquire these intermediate leases. This, I believe, is their working : they knocked off that £25,000 from the capital value of the site, bringing it down to £50,000. Five per cent. on £50,000 is £2,500. They knocked off £500 in consideration of our being, as an Institute, an educational body and in no way commercial, and said we could have it at £2,000. They did not charge us a fine, but, on the contrary, gave us a handsome rebate, as I have already explained, in the amount of the ground rent we should have to pay until 1943. Taking the capital value of the rebate over the various periods, adding the rental that we shall receive for two years from No. 64, and the ground rent that we shall receive from No. 66 until 1938—I do not want to confuse you, but we can get immediate possession of all the properties in Portland Place, excepting No. 66. The Estate have agreed to defer our building operations at No. 66 until 1938 should we not be able to make terms with the sitting tenant. But at the same time we shall have the benefit of the ground rent which that tenant pays towards the ground rent that we have to pay, that is to say, we shall have the income of £180 a year from those premises so long as he remains in occupation. No. 68 we have agreed to purchase for £5,000. The rental from that will produce 4½ per cent. interest on our £5,000, and will provide a sinking fund to return our £5,000 in 1938, and on top of that it will show a profit of £1,100. Taking all these assets into consideration as against the £25,000 we shall have to pay out, we stand for a dead nett money payment of between £6,000 and £7,000 only. I will show you the figures afterwards, if you wish. The Estate have given us credit for having to pay £25,000. That being so, gentlemen, I think we may well agree the terms are such that we could very safely accept them and consider we have made a very good bargain.

I want to tell you a little more in explanation as to why the Premises Committee were so ready to make a move.

We have been in Conduit Street for just on 75 years. When we first came here—I was not present at the time—I think Conduit Street was a nice quiet backwater of Mayfair, very respectable and refined, and very suitable for such an Institute as this. But since then the neighbourhood has altered ; it has become essentially a commercial one, and the value of the property has increased enormously, so much so, that we have every reason to believe that if we put this place up for sale we might expect something well over £100,000 for our interest. We have a small debt on it. Anyhow, it would leave us a handsome amount of clear capital, which would go towards the cost of building new premises. Taking a lease, as we propose to do, is a great deal better than buying a site. The site we get is valued at £75,000. Suppose we were fortunate enough to buy it for £70,000 ; the interest on that would come to more than the ground rent we are liable to pay. We also have the advantage that we are working on somebody else's capital. What capital we can raise from the sale of these premises can be utilised for building, and we are paying a lower ground rent than the interest would have been if we had purchased. That is to the good.

Another word, if I may, with regard to the position. We had sites offered us in Westminster, many of them quite suitable in some respects, but, mostly, too expensive. Apart from that, if you just consider for a moment I think you will agree that Westminster naturally conveys to us an impression of engineers and surveyors ; it is their locality. We do not wish to compete with them. Then we had to consider Bloomsbury ; we nearly fixed on a site there. Unfortunately, perhaps, we took rather long in making up our minds, and when we decided to have a shot at it we found that it had gone. But, again, Bloomsbury, to my mind, suggests colleges, educational establishments and the Museum—rather a dull and dreary neighbourhood. (" No, no.") That is my impression, Sir. Then we thought of Mayfair. Mayfair would have suited us excellently. I told you previously that we had one site offered us in Mayfair. We should have fixed upon it excepting that when it came to a question of really hard fact we found we had been quoted only half the price required. So that had to be ruled out. Other sites in Mayfair, though suitable so far as the neighbourhood was concerned, were either found to be too small or that, though they contained the area, the shape did not lend itself to our purpose.

In Portland Place, gentlemen, I think we have found an ideal site. We have a site offered us in the very best part of what I consider the best street in the whole of the West End of London. It is within easy access of Oxford Circus ; and Oxford Circus, if you consider a moment, you will realise is rapidly becoming the centre of the whole of England. From Oxford Circus you can get to any of the big railway termini, and from them to any part of England ; it is the most accessible spot in the whole of London. The way values in the West End have gone up should be sufficient proof of that ; the way the large provincial firms are bringing their London offices to the West End in preference to the City should show you what they consider is the best position to be in, and the business men in the provinces have the reputation of being the most hard-headed of any.

When I come to submit the resolution to you, a resolution only made possible by reason of the kindly interest taken in us by Colonel Blount, the estate surveyor—who enlisted the goodwill of the Estates Committee and of Lord Howard de Walden himself to such good effect that we now have the offer of these most generous and considerate terms, I hope I shall have your unanimous support for what I consider to be an ideal site on which to erect such a building as will fitly house this Institute, where we can show what this Institute is capable of in the way of design, and which will be a credit to the profession to which we belong.

Gentlemen, the resolutions I have to propose are :—

(1) That the Council be authorised to confirm the undermentioned Contracts for the purchase of properties in Portland Place, London, W.1, viz. :—

(*a*) A Contract entered into by Colonel Percy Hopkins on behalf of the Institute to purchase at the price of £6,000 the premises No. 62 Portland Place held under a Lease dated 20 March 1903 from the Rt. Hon. Thomas Evelyn Baron Howard de Walden and Seaford for the unexpired residue of a term of 27 years from 6 July 1911 and subject to the payment of the yearly rent of £110 and to the Lessees covenants and conditions contained in the said Lease. And also the benefit of an Agreement dated 18 November 1921 for the grant of a further Lease of the said premises for the term of five years from 6 July 1938 subject to the payment of the yearly rent of £110 and to the Lessees covenants and conditions therein contained.

(*b*) A Contract entered into by William Scorer, Esq., on behalf of the Institute to purchase at the price of £9,100 the premises No. 64 Portland Place held under a Lease dated 8 May 1903 from the Rt. Hon. Thomas Evelyn Baron Howard de Walden and Seaford for the unexpired residue of the term of 40 years from 6 July 1903 subject to the payment of the apportioned yearly rent of £100 and to the Lessees covenants and conditions contained in the said Lease.

(*c*) A Contract entered into by Frederick George Baker, Esq., on behalf of the Institute to purchase at the price of £5,000 the premises No. 68 Portland Place held under a Lease dated 2 November 1921 from the Rt. Hon. Thomas Evelyn Baron Howard De Walden and Seaford for the unexpired residue of a term of 13¾ years subject to the payment of the yearly rent of £300 and to the Lessees covenants and conditons contained in the said Lease.

(2) That the Solicitors to the Institute be instructed to complete the purchase of the respective properties above-mentioned and that the Council be further authorised to raise out of the funds of the Institute or by mortgage such a sum or sums as may be required for the completion of the said properties.

(3) That the Secretary be authorised to accept the terms offered by Colonel Edward Blount on behalf of the Rt. Hon. Thomas Evelyn Baron Howard De Walden and Seaford as contained in his letter to the Secretary of 5 February 1929 for the grant of a Building Lease of the site of Nos. 62, 64, 66 and 68 Portland Place ; Nos. 14, 16, 18 and 20 Weymouth Street ; and Nos. 14 and 15 Williams Mews, London, W.1.

Mr. S. D. KITSON [*F.*] : I want, just formally, to second this proposal which Colonel Hopkins has put forward. And I do not want to waste any time, because we want to get as many views on this subject as possible. But I should like to say, in seconding it, that I do so most whole-heartedly ; I believe it to be a very excellent site. The building which is to be put up will face south and west into the widest street in London, and I think it is extremely important that this Institute should have a dignified building, which will allow the sun to play upon it, and that it should not face either north or east ; I think that is a very important point. Everybody I have spoken to about the site has agreed that it is well placed as regards access, especially to the different termini of the northern railways. And as a very large number of our members come from north to London, I think that is a very important point, too. It is also important that some decision should be arrived at now, because our Centenary is very nearly due ; in 1934 this Institute will have existed for a hundred years, and it is very important that our new building should be completed by the year of our Centenary.

The PRESIDENT : I am going to put this resolution to the vote of the meeting, but I am sure gentlemen here would like to express their views about it, and I shall be glad to hear them.

Mr. W. GILBEE SCOTT [*F.*] : As one of those who rather attacked the Committee in connection with finding a site and accused them somewhat of being dilatory, I am quite willing, in view of the results, to withdraw what criticisms I may have made upon them, perhaps a couple of months ago. Anyhow, since then they have certainly wakened up to very good purpose. I went down this afternoon specially to Portland Place, to have a look at the site, so that I might know something about it, and I was particularly impressed with the very suitable character of the position. It is quiet and dignified, and in every sense, I think, absolutely suitable for such a body as ours, and, as Colonel Hopkins pointed out, it is particularly accessible. I tried to judge the time it took me to walk to Oxford Circus from the site, and, as far as I could judge, it is probably about the same as from the Circus here. In every way it is particularly suitable and convenient. Colonel Hopkins and those who have been acting with him have evidently gone into the matter on very capable and very business-like lines, and it is perfectly obvious that they know exactly what they are about, that they are able to judge values, and are particularly able to make a very good bargain. I think we cannot possibly do better than accept the proposition which is now put before us.

Mr. A. F. HOOPER [*A.*] : If there is no one more eminent than myself likely to speak, I would like to say that, as a younger member of the Institute, I do not favour this site. I may be wrong, but I have not heard of this site before. One remark Colonel Hopkins made appealed to me. He said that one associated Westminster with engineers and surveyors, as if we should try to forget their existence altogether. I would remind him that immediately opposite the Engineers' and Surveyors' homes is the Ministry of Health, and if they are not associated with us, I do not know who is. I walked along Great George Street, on my way to the Institute to-night, and I felt confident that that was the area to go to. I do not think Oxford Circus is the heart of the Metropolis ; I think that round about Big Ben is the centre. And there you are right on top of the District Railway's Inner Circle, which connects up all the London termini. That Oxford Circus is the centre for commercial undertakings, I recognise, but not for professional institutions. And when you have got to Oxford Circus there is a long walk to Upper Regent Street, and then up part of Portland Place. I like the idea of a specialised site and dignified premises, and I recognise that our present premises are not worthy of the Institute ; but we should think larger still, keep

our eyes open, and wait. The site which I feel is the one we should have is that next door to the Middlesex Guildhall, opposite or next door to the Surveyors', overlooking Parliament Square. It must be a very valuable site, I know, but if architects would put up a building worthy of their calling there, it would be a far better advertisement to the Institute than being away up in north London. And the County Hall is also in that despised area.

Mr. J. E. YERBURY [*L.*]: I would like to support Colonel Hopkins' proposal. But I do not agree with him that Bloomsbury is dull because it is an educational centre; I should myself have favoured Bloomsbury, and after that, probably Westminster, as it would have been a score for us to have been near the engineers and surveyors, rather than away from them. On the other hand, during the last few days, having heard that the Portland Place site was under discussion, I have taken the trouble to look at the site, and, with some knowledge of values in that district, I have no hesitation in saying that, wait as long as we may, we shall never find such a bargain as that which Colonel Hopkins has so ably put before us to-night. I know well, from my knowledge of building sites, that the sums which have been mentioned to-night are ridiculously low, and we should, I think, congratulate Colonel Hopkins and the Committee on the way in which they have dealt with the matter, and also be very grateful to the de Walden Estate for what they have done to meet us. The price is such as we should never have got an opportunity of accepting at a later date. Values are increasing, as we know, year by year, and they will continue to go up, and the longer we wait the worse off we shall be in that respect. I cordially support the resolution.

Mr. DIGBY L. SOLOMON [*F.*]: I support the last speaker's remark as to the debt which we owe to Colonel Hopkins for the success which has attended his labours. I have had some experience of values in Portland Place, and I say, without hesitation, that we are getting an extraordinary bargain after the long time we have waited without success.

I would like to ask one or two questions. The first is, has the Institute been fortified by the opinion of some independent valuer or surveyor that the value is right? I think the Committee should have that corroboration.

The second question is, what arrangements have been made if the Institute find they cannot proceed? Would the Institute be able to re-sell it?

The SECRETARY (Mr. MacAlister): I can answer the first question. The Premises Committee sent the whole of the facts and figures to their expert, Sir John Oakley, and asked his opinion on the matter. He sent a very detailed and careful statement, which ended by saying that, in his opinion, the Institute were making a very good bargain, and he strongly advised them to accept it.

Col. HOPKINS: With regard to the other point which Mr. Solomon raised, I regret to say that in quoting the terms, I omitted to read the following—" it is to be understood that these terms are quoted solely to the Royal Institute of British Architects for the erection of their new Institute, and are to be accepted or declined by them, and will not be transferable to any other party." I may say, however, that the de Walden Estate, since we have been in communication, have gradually realised that to have us, with a building such as we would erect, on their estate would be a great acquisition, and they are now quite as anxious to have us as we are to go there. Although, when the original terms were offered us, I made a sporting offer to the Council that, should they not wish to carry on, I would be prepared to take the whole thing off their hands on behalf of a client of mine; I am afraid the proviso in the letter from the Estate might now be a difficulty. Anyhow, if you do not wish to go on, I still have hopes that I might be able to transfer to my client, providing the Estate are agreeable and do not unduly raise their terms.

Mr. J. ALAN SLATER [*F.*]: I do not want to prolong this discussion, but I would like to add my voice to the chorus of approbation and praise of the resolution. I know something about the values there, and if Colonel Hopkins will summarise the financial point by quoting the price per foot—he did not say what the size of it was—it would be helpful. It certainly is an enormous bargain, and I do not think it is more than about 2s. 6d. a foot.

Col. HOPKINS: The ordinary rate charged by the Estate, for a site such as this, would be in the neighbourhood of 4s. or 5s. a foot super. We have a site with an area of 15,000 feet. I hoped, when first I was shown the site, that we might get it at 4s., which would mean £3,000 a year. Actually, we have the offer of it at £2,000, which works out at about 2s. 6d. a foot, and that price is almost as low as the lowest we have been offered in any other district, and for 999 years, which is practically freehold.

Mr. E. H. WOODCOCK: Would it be possible for us at this stage to be given this information in the JOURNAL?

Col. HOPKINS: I think we are safe in disclosing it in the JOURNAL now.

The PRESIDENT: Very well, it will be published.

Major H. C. CORLETTE [*F.*]: With regard to the publication of details in the JOURNAL, I suggest we should consider whether the Estate would be willing to allow us to publish details for the moment, before a guarantee is forthcoming.

Col. HOPKINS: I think full publication might fairly be left until the Estate has been consulted. You will notice that the terms offered us are to be accepted within six weeks of 5 February; the period expires to-morrow. So if we accept them right away, I do not think there will be any objection to publication, so far as the Institute is concerned.

Mr. DIGBY SOLOMON: I do not think I have had an exact answer to my question. If the Institute could not go on with the building in a few years to come, what will happen to what they have paid for the site, as they are not allowed to assign it.

Lieut.-Col. HOPKINS: I tried to answer that question. It means we have undertaken to purchase, for a sum of £20,000, certain interests. Those interests, even if we did no more, would return us somewhere in the neighbourhood of £14,000. So we should stand at a dead loss of £6,000 if the whole thing were to fall through.

The PRESIDENT : I will now put these resolutions to the meeting. I hope you will be unanimous, because, as President of the Institute, I have, naturally, taken a great deal of interest in this matter. I feel very strongly and very sincerely, that a body such as ours should have, apart from building altogether, a really splendid site. Portland Place, which has a width of 80 to 100 feet, I consider to be one of the most striking streets in London to-day, and I cannot imagine any better position as the home of a learned body such as ours. I hope, therefore, as I say, that the voting will be unanimous. I want everything one does in this way to have the approval not only of a section of this great body of ours, but of the whole body. If we have that enthusiasm we shall get in the end, I am sure, a home worthy of the Institute. Will those in favour of these resolutions please hold up their hands ? It is not necessary to count them, as far as I can see.

The resolutions were carried unanimously, amid general applause.

The PRESIDENT : I am greatly obliged to you, gentlemen, for approving this in the manner you have done.

I would like, before we part, to thank Colonel Hopkins for all that he has done.

Carried by acclamation.

Col. Hopkins acknowledged the thanks.

The PRESIDENT : That concludes our meeting.

PROPOSED POWER STATION IN BATTERSEA.

The following letter of protest was published in *The Times* of 9 April with regard to the proposed erection of a new power station at Battersea :—

SIR,—It appears to us that the schemes of the Central Electricity Board to erect super generating stations at Battersea and elsewhere in the midst of large towns have been framed without sufficient regard to the welfare of the community as a whole.

We are particularly apprehensive in respect of the station at Battersea for the following reasons :—

1. The proposed concentration of coal combustion is on a scale unprecedented in this country, and experience at generating stations of similar character but on a much smaller scale with modern appliances eliminating smoke indicates that the emission of large quantities of sulphurous acid causes serious damage to vegetation, besides corroding stonework, ironwork, and other metals and injuriously affecting paintings, coloured fabrics, and the like. It has also been found that the modern methods of burning coal result in the discharge of large quantities of fine dust and grit, which are a serious inconvenience to surrounding residents.

2. In the case of Farnworth *versus* Manchester Corporation, recently decided in the Court of Appeal, it was admitted that the Barton power station had caused serious damage to crops for a radius of at least one mile. This on a daily consumption of some 500 tons as compared with a minimum daily consumption of 2,000 tons as now proposed at Battersea.

3. As the prevailing winds in London are south-west, the normal flow of fumes from a station at Battersea would take a line over the Tate Gallery, Lambeth Palace, St. James's Park, Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, St. Thomas's Hospital, Whitehall, the National Gallery, etc. while Battersea Park and Chelsea Royal Hospital are both close to the site of the proposed station. The corrosion of the stonework of the Houses of Parliament is known to be due to sulphurous vapours : the fumes from Battersea will be far more corrosive than the present atmosphere.

4. The riverside is especially susceptible to fog, and when such occurs a great concentration of sulphurous and carbonic acids will take place. These acids (the fumes of which, apart from condensation, are heavier than air) would descend on the surrounding district to the serious detriment of health, vegetation, and buildings, whether of stone or brick.

5. Consequently, it seems evident that a generating station of this magnitude should not be permitted in or close to a large town, unless sure provision is made for preventing the emission of these deleterious gases and for eliminating all dust and grit from flue gases. It appears to be doubtful whether sure provision is at present contemplated or whether it is even economically possible on the Battersea site.

6. There is the further point to consider—namely, that if such a station were erected and the damage that is anticipated took place, it is inevitable that injunctions would be sought or claims for damages put forward. The promoters would, therefore, be faced with the possibility of closure, the certainty of expensive litigation, and the probability of having to face costly compensation.

7. In Germany, where large scale electricity production is farther advanced than it is in this country, the general practice is to produce the current on the coalfields. Current of high voltage is transmitted for as great a distance as 300 miles, and in some cases the difficulty of carrying overhead cables through the outskirts of big cities is obviated by laying a cable in the river Rhine—an accommodation which could as readily be provided in the Thames.

8. With regard to London, there is no need to cope with any distance approaching 300 miles, because in East Kent, some sixty miles away, there is a coalfield ready at hand, where a generating station on the seaboard could be so placed that the prevailing wind would take any fumes out to sea, and where any damage done would at least be a minimum. A further advantage of a generating station on a coalfield would be the avoidance of additional transport of coal and removal of ash at a centre already overburdened with traffic.

9. With these considerations in view, and, above all, the danger to our national treasures, to the health and comfort of the near-by population and to the vegetation of our parks and open spaces, it seems manifest that the present project is ill-advised, particularly as there are alternatives which have technical and economic advantages.

Fortunately little has yet been done on the Battersea site, and, in view of the considerations set out above, we ask the Government to institute an immediate and searching inquiry into the proposal from all points of view.

Yours faithfully,

C. B. CLAPCOTT, *Mayor of Chelsea.*

E. GUY DAWBER, *Past President, the Royal Institute of British Architects.*

DAWSON OF PENN.

H. M. DES VOEUX, *Chairman, the Coal Smoke Abatement Society.*

MEATH, *President, the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association.*

J. S. OWENS, *Superintendent of Observations on Atmospheric Pollution.*

VIVIAN B. ROGERS, *Mayor of the City of Westminster.*

SQUIRE SPRIGGE, *Editor "The Lancet."*

ARTHUR STANLEY, *Treasurer, St. Thomas's Hospital.*

WALTER TAPPER, *President, the Royal Institute of British Architects.*

CARMICHAEL THOMAS, *Chairman of Council, the London Society.*

Allied Societies

(The attention of Members of the Allied Societies is particularly called to this page.)

THE ESSEX SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WEST ESSEX CHAPTER.

MEMBERSHIP.

The membership of the Chapter has been published in the Society's Year-Book, and several new members have been acquired, and now number 41, but it is regrettable that there are architects (some of whom are members of the R.I.B.A.) who are practising or resident within the district who have not thought fit to attach themselves to the Society, although, as far as they are known to us, they have been circularised with all events during the year, and this system, unless your desire is that it be renewed, will now lapse, members only in future being notified.

Your executive has expressed itself as anxious that the lay interest in the society should be increased, and the same applies to the associate craftsmen class of membership, extension rather than restriction of membership being the keynote.

MEETINGS.

Special events have not been numerous but have been exceedingly interesting and valuable to those who attended. The inaugural meeting took the form of a dinner on Shrove Tuesday when some 54 members of the Society sat down in Sir Christopher Wren's "Old Chapter House," St. Paul's Churchyard.

The inaugural business meeting was held at the R.I.B.A., when a most disappointing number attended. The necessary business was, however, transacted, and officials appointed. The next general meeting took the form of a visit to the Gold Medal building designed by Mr. Lidbetter for the Society of Friends, coupled with a visit to the restored Euston Station Hall, and we were joined on this occasion by the Architectural Society of the Bishop's Stortford College.

In March a conference of architects and builders was made possible through the courtesy of the Mayor of Ilford, Alderman W. J. Alfred Sheat, O.B.E., and the experiment of meeting contractors was fully justified, and a memorandum of the conclusions regarding the proposed contract form and other questions was forwarded to the R.I.B.A.

In May a conference was held in the Old Church House, Market Place, Romford, when a number of educationists met and some considerable support was forthcoming from schoolmasters in the area, some of whom expressed the desire for architectural lectures in their schools, a matter which in the past year has not been taken up, but which it is hoped will be started in 1929. The Honorary Secretary of the Society gave an address on "The Teaching of Architecture in the Public and Secondary School" to the schoolmasters and others present.

In June some members of the Chapter visited Colchester for the general meeting of the Society, and in July a number of members visited the Bishop's Stortford College and inspected its fine buildings.

In October a visit was made to the Guildhall of the Painter Stainers' Company in London, followed by a visit to the new Lloyd's building, the party having the privilege of the presence of the architect, Sir Edwin Cooper, and his assistant, Mr. Nunn.

A concluding meeting of the year was held on 12 February, when the architects of the Carreras factory, Mornington Crescent (Messrs. Collins and Son), conducted members over this fine range of buildings, and some of the party found their way to the Carpenters' Hall, which was also visited.

DEVON AND CORNWALL ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Devon and Cornwall Architectural Society was held on Saturday, 23 March 1929, at Exeter.

The chair was taken by the President, Mr. R. M. Challice, J.P., of Exeter, the other members present being :—

The Exeter Branch—Messrs. J. Bennett, L.R.I.B.A., E. Kemeys Jenkin, F.R.I.B.A., A. H. Ough, F.R.I.B.A., W. R. F. Ham, B. H. Palmer, L.R.I.B.A., Philip Tilden, F.R.I.B.A., W. J. M. Thomasson, A.R.I.B.A., L. F. Tonar, L.R.I.B.A. D. W. Cooper, H. W. Merrifield, H. D. Wheater, and J. Challice, A.R.I.B.A. (Hon. Secretary). *The Plymouth Branch*—Messrs. Chas. Cheverton, F.R.I.B.A., A. C. Morman, F.R.I.B.A., A. S. Parker, F.R.I.B.A., H. V. Prigg, A.M.I.C E., B. Priestley Shires, F.R.I.B.A., W. A. Vercoe, A.R.I.B.A., W. W. Wood, A.R.I.B.A., and A. T. Martindale, L.R.I.B.A. Honorary Members—R. H. Parker, A.R.C.A., and E. L. R. Vining, F.S.I.

The annual report and balance sheet of the Society were presented and unanimously adopted.

Arising out of the report the President drew attention to the fact that the Society is an annual subscriber to the Architects' Benevolent Fund, the Royal Institute of British Architects' Educational Fund, and to the Wren Society. It was resolved that in addition an annual subscription of two guineas should be given to the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.

The President referred to the valued services of Mr. B. Priestley Shires, both to the Society and to the Royal Institute, and expressed the hope that recognition would be forthcoming after more than 50 years of untiring work for those bodies.

Mr. R. M. Challice, the retiring President, then delivered his address.

In the course of his address he said:—In this paper, following the business of our Annual Meeting, I should like to have spent a little time with you in a talk on the claim of craftsmanship, and if possible, to get away from the commercial side of our art to that sphere in which one may forget such things as Acts of Parliament, bye-laws, orders and enactments, and be lost for a short period in the congenial atmosphere of chisel and trowel, hammer and saw ; to hear for a few moments the soft and silk-like rustle of the smoothing plane, the harsh rip of the hand-saw, the gurgle of the twist bit, the bell-like clang of the granite quarryman's drill bars, the rasp and scratch of the banker masons drag and the ring and clangour of his pitching tool and chisel ; to sit and dream of these sounds in the dim cloister of one's thoughts and see, as in a vision, the march of craftsmanhip out of which the ages have built their best, and from which we as a profession derive our birthright.

The "Artisan," a word big with meaning in all times and all countries ! The man in the village who, skilled in the arts, for the very love of them made the old oak chest, the carved settle, the grandfather's clock case, the beautiful spinning wheel, the wonderful old wagon with its graceful lines and light but strong construction ; the old walling mason, the thatcher, the master carpenter, the wheelwright and the cooper, whose works were full of character. In our mediæval work every

touch of hammer and chisel speaks of personality. One is charmed by looking into corners and discovering beauty which was surely created for the sheer joy of it. In unsuspected places some artist, long dead, smiles at you with a friendly, human smile.

Ours is a great heritage, and if we ever achieve our best we do so by first dreaming dreams and seeing visions. I do not for one moment submit to the suggestion that we are simply men of the office, that we have only to use paper and pencil, india rubber and a few earth colours. We are the " Master Craftsmen " and we must lead in every detail, from quarry to coping stone.

At the present period of our professional life we stand face to face with conditions most difficult to meet, taxing our best thought and energy ; conditions which, I fear, must for a time at least draw us away from the soul and poetry of our work.

The nerve-wracking pneumatic drills of national and municipal legislation are uprooting all our old thoughts and methods, enforcing new and drastic conditions, bringing us face to face with problems, demanding our best and most careful attention. In addition to the Acts passed since 1919 affecting both local authorities and the duties of architects, a large number of local Acts are obtained every year by various local authorities. These contain varied provisions, many of which must greatly affect the professional duties of architects, such as, for instance, the Exeter Corporation Act, 1928. There is also an enormous annual output from Government departments of subordinate legislation by statutory Rules and Orders and by Regulations supplemented by explanatory and directory circulars.

I should like to make a few suggestions to you which may be of service in the future of our office work in relation to this mass of legislation.

May I say, after over 28 years of work as a Councillor and Alderman of the City of Exeter, I am bound to look at these enactments from the standpoint of public welfare and benefit. I do not pretend for one moment that I know all the conditions which have arisen and will arise out of them, but I am bound to say that, on the whole, under the difficult and sometimes chaotic conditions of modern civilization, there is much that must command our respect, if not our approval as architects. These enactments are endeavours to provide better conditions of life for the general public and for the uplift of the working classes, the very centre and soul of which is the craftsman and all that he embodies in his life and surroundings.

I fear a very general opinion in the profession is that the officers of the civic and national authority who have to carry out these enactments are arbitrary and self-willed, if not self-opinionated. Whatever the facts and the individual experience may be, we have to carry on our work within the circle of these conditions and I am strongly of opinion that an endeavour should be made to emphasise our agreements rather than enlarge on our divergencies. I think it would help materially if some means could be evolved whereby the official (to whom the power is largely given subject to his committees, which I fear is often one and the same thing) and the outside profession could meet together and discuss in friendly attitude their two sides of the question, rather than keep each other at arm's length. The fact remains that we, on behalf of one side, and the councils on the other side, of public life have to carry these enactments into force and we ought to get together. I throw this out as a suggestion for the consideration of our council.

Another point I should like especially to urge is that there should be a greater desire on the part of members of our profession to take active part in the municipal life of the centres to which they belong, especially by becoming members of the Corporations. I am of opinion that the line of thought and the experience we can bring to those bodies is much needed and very much appreciated. I am also perfectly sure that it would be one step in the direction of bringing about a truer understanding of each other's difficulties.

The following officers and Members of Council were elected for the ensuing year : President, W. A. Vercoe, A.R.I.B.A. (Plymouth) ; Vice-Presidents, J. Bennett, L.R.I.B.A. (Exeter) ; W. H. May, F.R.I.B.A. (Plymouth) ; Past President, R. M. Challice (Exeter) ; Hon. Treasurer, S. Dobell (Exeter) ; Hon. Auditor, L. F. Tonar, L.R.I.B.A. (Exeter) ; Hon. Secretary, J. Challice, A.R.I.B.A. (Exeter). Members of Council :— Exeter Branch : E. Kemeys Jenkin, F.R.I.B.A. (Exeter), J. C. Beare, A.R.I.B.A. (Newton Abbot), W. J. M. Thomasson, A.R.I.B.A. (Exeter), A. H. Ough, F.R.I.B.A. (Dawlish), W. F. R. Ham (Exeter). Plymouth Branch : A. S. Parker, F.R.I.B.A. (Plymouth), B. Priestley Shires, F.R.I.B.A. (Plymouth), C. Cheverton, F.R.I.B.A. (Plymouth), H. Victor Prigg, A.M.I.C.E. (Plymouth), J. Leighton Fouracre, F.R.I.B.A. (Plymouth). Associate Members of Council :—Exeter Branch : D. W. Cooper (Exeter), H. A. Peters, A.R.I.B.A. (Exeter). Plymouth Branch : A. T. Martindale, L.R.I.B.A. (Plymouth).

Following the business of the meeting Mr. R. H. Parker, the Principal of the Central School of Arts and Crafts, Plymouth, gave an account of the encouraging progress of the architectural department of the School and mentioned that the Plymouth Education Authority appreciated the action of the Society in appointing a visiting committee. He expressed the hope that in the near future students would be able to sit at Plymouth or Exeter for the examinations of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION.

A general meeting of the Gloucestershire Architectural Association was held at the Bell Hotel, Gloucester, on Wednesday, 20 March, when W. E. Watson, Esq., F.R.I.B.A., Barrister-at-Law, of the Inner Temple, London, spoke on " Legal Liabilities of Architects and Contractors." A discussion ensued in which many members took part, and a hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer was carried unanimously.

SHEFFIELD, SOUTH YORKSHIRE AND DISTRICT SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS AND SURVEYORS.

A lecture, illustrated by lantern slides, was given by Mr. W. Randolph (London), on " Ecclesiastical Architecture in Spain " at the General Meeting of the Sheffield, South Yorkshire and District Society of Architects and Surveyors on 14 March, held at the University.

The lecturer at the beginning of his paper, drew attention to the greater need in Spain than in other countries, when dealing with architecture, of considering not only permanent and material factors such as soil and climate, but likewise those external and accidental elements of race and history which do so much to modify artistic expression. After the usual Roman settlement, followed by a Christian Visigothic culture, there came a non-European invasion—the tidal wave, so to speak, of Arabic art and civilisation, which after its first flood persisted long as an ebbing tide, simultaneously with a flow of native and neighbouring currents and was thus to some extent perpetuated during mediæval times. The Moorish influence impressed itself very strongly on the centre, in the one-time capital of Toledo, even giving birth to a mixed mediæval style called the Mudejar, Spain being at this period and until the close of it a land of divided sovereignty with an unfixed capital. After this, came the Romanesque, or, as the Spaniards themselves term it, the Romanic or Byzantine Romanic, development of the northern regions, in Catalonia, Leon and Santiago, which were influenced by Northern Italy and by Southern France. In most parts of the country, too, there was a simple type of transitional and first Gothic in connection with the Cluniac and Cistercian monastic orders, and presently the genuine

complete French Gothic appeared. A little group of cathedrals, Leon, Burgos and Toledo, best exemplified the movement.

In the fourteenth century, Catalonia, always individualistic, though much akin to its French neighbours of the south-east, claimed special notice, whilst in the course of the fifteenth century there emerged a more national type. It was hazardous perhaps, to claim the cathedral of Seville, the great achievement of the age, as distinctively Spanish, but the close of this century produced the characteristic and luxuriant style that is best illustrated in the various foundations of Ferdinand and Isabella.

In winter the whole northern plateau of Spain is extremely bleak, but the winter season was short, and it was the summer and the sunshine that count in Spanish life and Spanish architecture. These have produced the enclosed courtyards and sombre church interiors, the relatively unpierced wall spaces, the flattened roofs and open eaves storys that characterise, with some northern exceptions, the country in general.

When the Christian reconquest began most of the early Moorish Mosques had perished largely through their displacement by churches built on their sites, but the greatest of them all, the Mosquita of Cordoba, was fortunately spared, although it was converted, and this building remains one of the most extensive and extraordinary edifices in Europe. It forms a parallelogram, roughly 450 feet square, and is divided in every direction by arcaded colonnades, sometimes in double tiers and, whichever way one looks, one sees a forest of receding avenues in stone. In the midst of this forest the sixteenth century raised a cathedral choir of mixed style which destroyed the original unity, while chapels have been fitted up all round the outer walls. Later, Toledo affords examples of both original and mediæval Moorish art, in a small group of buildings originally mosque or synagogue—for the Jews were powerful even in the mediæval city—afterwards converted to Christian purposes and nowadays disused. Surface ornament moulded in gesso, as seen in the churches of Santa Maria la Blanca with its artificial stone or stucco capitals and Christo de la Lux, was a leading and often exquisite feature of Moorish art and was carried over into the mixed and Mudejar style, and even translated into terms of pure Gothic tracery work, with interesting and sometimes excellent effect. Structurally, the semi-Moorish or Mauresque impressed itself in a marked manner on the lessor towers of the mediæval period, where it became almost a stereotyped form with two or three pointed horseshoe belfry openings in each and shallow panel work elsewhere. Much of it was executed in brick, the church of Santiago del Arrabal being a good example.

In the meantime the Romanesque had been developing elsewhere and the early monastic churches, and remains of Catalonia, are very interesting in this respect, particularly Santiago de Compostella with its splendid portal built in 1188. Street, in his classic book on Spain, shows it to belong to the family of St. Sernin at Toulouse.

The elder Cathedral of Salamanca was noted, with its striking lanterns suggestive of domes built by a Bishop from Perigord, and the cathedral at Avila with its early Gothic ambulatory, with a picturesquely contrived outer aisle, and shallow chapels sunk in the thickness of the outer wall which itself forms a great semi-circle and is effectively worked into the city walls.

Tarragona Cathedral claimed attention as an example of the earliest complete Gothic. It is now stated that craftsmen were brought thither from Normandy in the early part of the twelfth century, but the actual church would seem to have a different parentage. It is simple, severe and massive, still almost transitional, compact and relatively small, with three main parallel apses, a central octagon lantern and a side tower. Within, the church displays the characteristic ritual arrangement and equipment of the larger Spanish churches, in which the enclosed Coro, or choir, containing the stalls of clergy and choristers is separated from the chancel by the width of the transept which is shut off from both by high metal screens thrown open at service times, and sometimes connected by a railed passage way. Either the western or the eastern screen, is flanked by twin pulpits used by the Epistoler and Gospeller respectively at a chanted Mass—thus recalling the ambos of early Italian usage. It will be seen, therefore, that the choir is thrown westward into the nave as is partly the case in some English Benedictine churches and entirely so at Westminster Abbey, which lacks, however, the transverse grilles, and that if this arrangement interferes with the vista from the west it at the same time affords a full open view of the chancel from the transept.

By this time, however, the perfected Gothic of northern France was ripe for transplantation and the third decade of the thirteenth century saw the Sainted Ferdinand of Castille, contemporary of St. Louis of France engaged in the founding of the two chief churches of the new architectural school, Burgos and Toledo. Burgos, originally designed as a comparatively small edifice, has been overpowered on plan by after additions and alterations, whilst the western spires, the central and eastern octagons are all obviously of later work and recorded as being the work of one, John of Cologne, and his family successors. The chief beauty of the interior may well be found in the individual chapters and accretions with their contents of screens, and altars, and tombs, and other fittings in which the Spanish churches generally are so rich.

Toledo, the Metropolitan See of Spain, is the crowning glory of a city wonderfully endowed by both art and nature. The Cathedral is a fully developed thirteenth century church of the northern French type, cruciform, double aisled, ambulatoried and many chapelled—more coherent than Burgos, although not without additions. Among the internal features of note are the vault high reredos, sculptured and gilt and polycromed, the splendid gift of the noted Cardinal Ximenes, the beautiful alabaster enclosure of the choir and chancel, mainly fourteenth century, with its statuary and the rich stalls and other fittings of the Coro besides the sumptuously panelled and frescoed chapter room.

With regard to Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia, the French influence is of the south rather than the north, while the local type is Catalonian and not simply Spanish, a distinction jealously preserved even in language to the present day. Racial affinity with the south-eastern provinces of France was unquestionable, and in the Middle Ages, Narbonne and Perpignan were, in fact, politically united to Spain.

The ancient churches of Barcelona form a most interesting group. Mainly, or largely, of fourteenth century work or design, they displayed a great openness of plan and structure with arcades both wide and lofty involving the reduction and almost the supression of triforium and clerestory. In the cathedral the window is a mere bull's eye, so that the body of the church unlit from the aisles is excessively dark.

The nave of the Cathedral of Palma, in Majorca, for size was one of the finest in Europe. It is roughly some 60 feet wide, 10 feet more than York, with aisles and side chapels by some 250 feet long, whilst the height approaches 150 feet, a middle term between Amiens and Beauvais, but the interior appearance has been spoilt by the operation of an eccentric modern architect who had removed the Coro and its appurtenances bodily east, and so left the nave a bare and empty avenue. Another Catalonian cathedral, Genora, is reputed to have the widest one-span mediæval nave in existence. This was, however, the climax of the type prominent in the southern provinces of France, Languedoc and Provence.

The one outstanding Gothic monument of Andalusia is the Cathedral of Seville. It stands on the site of a great mosque which, converted into a church, served as a cathedral until the fifteenth century, just as Cordoba does yet. Its plan was probably influenced by the Moorish lay-out taking the shape

of a great quadrilateral, five aisled and side chapelled, some two-thirds as broad as long and having no apse to the main body. The external masses dominated by the Moorish Renaissance Giralda tower, show square flat-roofed with the vaulting exposed. The interior is of Gothic design, though strikingly individual in treatment.

The church of San Juan de los Reges, and the Cartuja or Charterhouse Monastery, near the city of Burgos, belong to a period between the free and fertile Gothic and the formalised Renaissance of Charles V and of the Escorial. This phase is known as the " Plateresque " from a supposed likeness to silver-smithery, and the rich and semi-Gothic detail was often most delicate and fanciful, as a single example from Toledo in the hospital church of St. Cross will serve to show. This phase was the last warm sunset gleam of an original and romantic national art.

A vote of thanks to the lecturer was proposed by Mr. J. R. Wigfull and seconded by Mr. A. M. Lusby.

SOUTH WALES INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

The annual meeting of the South Wales Institute of Architects was held at 5 High Street, Cardiff, on Thursday, 21 March 1929, Mr. C. S. Thomas in the chair.

The officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows :—

President, Mr. T. Alwyn Lloyd (Cardiff) ; vice-presidents, Mr. C. S. Thomas and Mr. J. Herbert Jones (Swansea) ; hon. treasurer, Mr. H. Teather ; hon. auditor, Col. E. H. Fawckner ; hon. librarian, Mr. R. H. Winder ; hon. secretary, Mr. Ivor P. Jones.

Members of the Council.—Central Branch : Messrs. H. N. Edwards. W. S. Purchon, J. Williamson, Percy Thomas, F. H. Heaven, J. Llewellin Smith, T. Edgar Smith, A. G. Lynham, C. F. Jones, J. B. Fletcher and W. D. Thomas.

Western Branch : Messrs. C. Russell Peacock, G. R. H. Rogers, O. S. Portsmouth, S. R. Crocker, Edwin Smith and D. F. Ingleton.

Eastern Branch : Messrs. Walter Rosser, E. H. Fawckner, C. E. Tebbs, C. E. Compton and Charles F. Ward.

Associates' and Students' Representatives—Central Branch : Messrs. A. J. Hayes, J. R. Hallett, A. G. Fletcher and C. H. Evans. Western Branch : C. E. Geddes. Eastern Branch : Mr. J. Edward Lenton.

The annual dinner of the South Wales Institute of Architects was held on Friday, 22 March, at the Park Hotel, Cardiff, when Mr. C. S. Thomas, F.R.I.B.A. (Swansea), the retiring President, presided over a representative gathering. The guests included, among others, the Deputy Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Cardiff (Alderman C. F. Sanders, J.P., and Miss Sanders), Mr. Walter Tapper, A.R.A. (President of the Royal Institute of British Architects), Mr. Ian MacAlister (Secretary of the Royal Institute of British Architects), and Mr. E. C. Bewlay, F. R.I.B.A. (President of the Birmingham Architectural Association).

The toast of " The R.I.B.A. and the Allied Societies " was proposed by Principal Charles Coles, B.Sc.

Mr. Walter Tapper, A.R.A., President of the Royal Institute, responded, and referred to the very pleasant time he had spent during his term as President. In the course of the past two years he had been to Stoke, Leeds and Cardiff, where their great civic centre was so worthy of praise ; to Bristol, Cheltenham and Bath ; to Reading ; to Dublin, that famous historical city, and one of the most beautiful in Europe ; to Belfast, a great industrial centre, not so beautiful ; to Edinburgh, with its splendid National Memorial by Sir Robert Lorimer, and to Southend. If their School of Architecture had been established earlier it might have prevented the squalor and ugliness which pervaded the environment of the last mentioned town !

It had been an experience—a great experience to him—but what he felt most of all was that it had brought him friendship with good men and with fellow architects all over the country. That was something which no man could value too much. When you lived in London you were apt to believe that London was the only place that mattered, but when you went round the country you learned differently. You learned something of the worthy aims, the aspirations and hopes in provincial towns and the difficulties to be contended with.

Alluding to Cardiff, Mr. Tapper said he would like to congratulate the city on possessing one of the finest schools of architecture in the country. Under the energetic direction of Mr. Purchon it had made great progress, and it was the duty of all to help the school. No greater public service could be performed than by giving such a school every practical support. It could be made one of the greatest institutions for good in the country.

As that would be his last appearance as President, Mr. Tapper added that he would like to leave a farewell message, and it was that architects should never lose faith in their calling. We all had to live, and he knew what an anxious time it was for them, especially in the early careers of professional men ; but he appealed to them not to let commercial prosperity dominate their lives. Art was really so essential to a proper understanding of civilisation, was such a factor for good in human life, that if we could only make it a dominant note in our work, so much better for the good of the world. Whether it was a great cathedral or a fire-iron we were working on did not matter ; whether it was a barn or a cottage alongside a country road ; no matter how small, good art and architecture were factors for good that no man could undervalue. He also referred to the special part which women could play in the making of the home and in the encouragement of culture.

Mr. E. C. Bewlay, F.R.I.B.A., President of the Birmingham Architectural Association, replied on behalf of the Allied Societies, and spoke of the fine spirit of co-operation between them and the Royal Institute.

Mr. C. S. Thomas, F.R.I.B.A., in submitting the toast of " The guests," thanked the Cardiff City Council for their initiation and support of the School of Architecture, and he paid a graceful tribute to the local press for their encouragement of good architecture, and in particular for a recent cartoon depicting the disfigurement of the countryside by unsightly buildings.

Alderman C. F. Sanders, Deputy Lord Mayor of Cardiff, in his reply, stated that although he was the Chairman of the " Economy Committee," his desire was to do nothing which would diminish the efficiency of the School of Architecture, which he hoped would grow to be an even more influential body in the future. He spoke of the great changes and improvements which had taken place in Cardiff during his lifetime, for which architects, both from the locality and from outside, were largely responsible.

Mr. Robert J. Webber, J.P., of the *Western Mail*, and Mr. David Davies (Swansea), president of the South Wales Federation of Building Trades Employers, also spoke.

WEST YORKSHIRE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS.

At a meeting of the West Yorkshire Society of Architects at Leeds on 14 March, a lecture on " Lettering " was given by Mr. D. S. Andrews, A.R.C.A., S.G.A., Principal of the Leeds College of Art.

In reviewing the application of lettering to its various purposes, the lecturer stressed the importance of good plain lettering, free from so-called artistic distortions. The Roman lettering on the column of Trajan formed a good code on which to work, and only recently the whole of the lettering for the street names in the Royal Borough of Kensington had been altered to Roman type characters. Inscriptions on buildings and monuments ought to be of permanent character

type, and, seeing that they were intended to last for some generations, should exhibit no trivial or distorted features.

Simplicity and legibility were frequently absent from modern displays composed of lettering ; but, even applied to ephemeral objects, a definite and clear code of lettering without any "frills" should be adhered to. Signwriters were often the worst culprits in this respect. Good spacing was of great importance, and the want of this often spoilt the balance of the lettering in a decorative sense and ruined the otherwise easily read meaning of the inscription. As for lettering on architectural drawings, the lecturer liked to see this partake of the same character as that pervading the drawings themselves.

Mr. C. Sunderland [*A.*], in proposing the vote of thanks, urged that an earnest study of lettering would repay the young architect. As to the inscriptions on monuments or buildings, these should not be left to the sculptor to determine so far as the type and general arrangement were concerned : all that should be designed by the architect.

In seconding the vote, Mr. F. Chippindale [*A.*], thought that there was far too much importance attached to the lettering on plans and drawings. Lettering in Roman characters could hardly be done correctly, except by mechanical means ; otherwise script lettering would be preferable.

Mr. F. W. H. Allison [*A.*] considered that the ultra-modern type of lettering was obtaining too great a hold on architectural students ; and, in spite of the modernity of the building, the signing of the architect's name on the new Horticultural Hall was executed in Roman type lettering.

Mr. G. L. Broadbent [*A.*] said that in his opinion character played the most important part in lettering.

At a meeting of the West Yorkshire Society of Architects, held at Leeds, on 21 March, Mr. G. H. Foggitt [*F.*] was re-elected president, and Mr. Joseph Addison [*A.*] hon. secretary for the session 1929–30.

A lecture was afterwards given on "Modern Design and Decoration," by Mr. Howard Robertson [*F.*], who in the course of his remarks said :—

Ideals of beauty do not remain constant. They vary with peoples, countries, and also with periods of time. The Venus de Milo is still accepted as beautiful in form. But this form is not the present ideal of feminine beauty to-day, which is slender and boyish. To-day, we admire the beauty of the Venus, but we do not attempt to reproduce it. The same applies to form in building—ideals change. The Pyramids in 400 B.C. were modern, and admired for their form. In the time of Louis XV, a period of frills and elegance, the Pyramids were obsolete. But, to-day, the Pyramids again appeal to us. They have a kinship with modern ideals of form, simple, geometrical, severe.

To-day, life is complex, active ; machinery is a part of it. Our architecture and decoration is bound to express these factors. It expresses also our reactions, which are towards repose and relaxation from complexity.

Our machines, the automobile, the gramophone, the wireless are complicated. But their mechanisms are covered with a comparatively simple and smooth form, which yet expresses the mechanical function. Modern design and decoration do the same. They express our acknowledgment of the mechanical age, and yet our desire that it should not obtrude or dominate.

"Robot" styles do not, therefore, typify present ideals ; they are too insistent. Instead, we seek simplicity of form, low tones which blend and are reposeful. But we appreciate the pattern of hangings and textiles which with their geometrical designs express vitality. Hence the popularity of subdued "jazz" patterns. They are vivid in design ; but in the best modern decoration their interest is subordinate to a general harmony.

The reaction against nineteenth-century fussiness and bad taste led to extremes. Hence over-mechanical style, cubes, harsh shapes, steel furniture, the experiments of the advanced Continental modernists. This phase is passing. The best modern work is affable, pleasant, agreeable to live with.

Furniture is low, giving an air of informality, and harmonising with lower and smaller rooms. Its structure has changed also ; the legs and supports are no longer separate features, the sides of cabinets, bookcases, and even chairs are merely extended to the ground and form the legs. Framing is avoided. Flush surfaces relieved by sinkings are preferred. Plain unmoulded furniture, with the veneer of fine woods, is relieved by very sparing ornament, which has the same decorative value as a single gem on a plain background.

Comfort is recognised in modern decoration. Lighting is soft and diffused, often concealed behind glass wall panels ; the glare of the electric bulb is no longer seen. The housewife is also catered for. The modern American and Continental kitchens are things of clean beauty, with dressers and cupboards in durable enamel relieved with spots of painted decoration. The design of the kitchen is as carefully considered as that of the drawing-room. So also with the bathroom. Baths, and even basins, are completely built in, and there is a special compartment for the shower. And all bathrooms are, of course, heated with radiators or concealed panels. Only in England does the plumbing still remain exposed.

The recent exhibition of modern rooms and furniture by Waring and Gillow marks an advance in the English modern movement. It was influenced by the Continent, but English designers are making great steps forward. Unfortunately, many commercial firms have attempted to copy foreign models without grasping the underlying principles of modern design.

The Orient, particularly Japan, has been a source of inspiration to the modernist. Flat tones, plain surfaces, colour combinations of red and black, yellow and green, the use of lacquers, are typical of Japanese art, and very popular to-day. And rythm, which is fundamental in the decoration of the Orient, is a basic factor in present-day design. The modern movement has come to stay, because it is real and vital ; and the twentieth century will be one of the great periods of a living art.

The lecturer showed many lantern illustrations of modernist architecture, both on the Continent and in America, and whilst not professing a whole-hearted admiration for some of the specimens exhibited confessed that there might be something in the movement of functional and mechanised architecture that would eventually leave a desirable residuum.

Mr. J. C. Procter [*A.*] said, as architect to the Horticultural Hall, in London, Mr. Robertson had shown an example to the younger men in the form of a chastened Modernism which nevertheless amply fulfilled its purposes.

In seconding the vote, Mr. Norman Culley [*F.*] considered that it spoke well for this country that we still had to travel on the Continent to see modernist architecture in its ultra-form. Shop fronts seemed to be a favourite field for zig-zag, chevron, or naturalistic ornament, and it was to be hoped that they might be confined to that sphere.

Mr. Alban Jones [*L.*] expressed himself as being on the way to becoming a partial convert to the movement, provided it took a modified form. He did not think that Voysey received his due share of recognition as an undoubted pioneer of the modern movement. They could not dispute the fact that many of these modernist buildings were designed with sincere conviction ; but there was no thrill about them as was provided by a great piece of architecture or music. Many of them seemed to him to be put up for mere amusement.

The lecturer, in reply to Mr. Alban Jones's remarks, assured him that Voysey's share in the spade work that had been done for the modern movement was generously recognised on the Continent, and that his tradition still existed there.

THE STATUS OF SALARIED ARCHITECTS.

The Council of the R.I.B.A. have recently appointed a Committee with the general object of reporting from time to time on all matters affecting the interests of members who occupy salaried positions.

A meeting of salaried members was held at the R.I.B.A. last Friday (22nd instant) with the object of explaining the intentions of the Committee and the methods by which it is hoped to realise these intentions. The meeting was well attended and a number of useful suggestions were put forward.

The Hon. Secretary of the Committee commenced his statement by saying that the response to the recent letter addressed by the Committee to all members of the Institute had not been so big as they had expected. The reason was probably that members were rather suspicious of what was undoubtedly a new departure. The meeting were acquainted with the history of the movement which led up to the appointment of the Committee and an appeal was made for co-operation. It was emphasised that the scope of the Committee's usefulness will be very limited unless they receive the information for which they have asked.

The Institution of Professional Civil Servants have signified their intention of acting in close co-operation with the Committee, and if all salaried members will realise that the Committee exists solely to help them, and will act accordingly, much good will be achieved.

ARBITRATION TEAM COMPETITIONS.

As a practical exercise of the skill and knowledge of students of arbitration, a novel experiment has recently been tried by the Institute of Arbitrators, in the form of a team competition or trial hearing. Two imaginary cases were tried, one a compensation case arising out of allocation of land, the other a party-wall case; the students were drawn from London technical schools, and Major E. C. P. Monson [*F.*] and Mr. J. E. Yerbury [*F.*] acted as arbitrators. Prizes were given and reports were read, which are printed in the Journal of the Institute of Arbitrators for February.

NOTES FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL.

4 *March* 1929.

The King's Illness.

The following telegram was submitted to the Council:

Craigweil House, Bognor.

The President,
Royal Institute of British Architects.

The Queen sincerely thanks you and all who joined in the kind message you have sent to Her Majesty.

Private Secretary.

The Calton Jail Site, Edinburgh, and the Scottish National Library.

The following resolution was passed for submission to the Government:—

"It is felt that it is specially incumbent upon those responsible for the design of all new public buildings of importance to ensure that they should possess the highest obtainable architectural qualities. In view of the national importance of the proposed new buildings on the Calton Jail Site, Edinburgh, the finest architectural skill available should be employed on their design, and the Council of the Royal Institute consider that this end can best be achieved by means of an open competition among architects."

London Squares.

The Town Planning and Housing Committee drew attention to the fact that no determined action has been taken by Parliament to carry out the recommendations of the Royal Commission which was appointed to consider the question of the preservation of the London Squares and Enclosures.

Since the publication of the Royal Commission's Report in 1928 building operations have begun on Trafalgar Square, Chelsea, an open space of 2.71 acres situated in a densely populated district. In view of the possibility that other open spaces in London may be built on in the near future, the Council, on the recommendation of the Town Planning Committee, have written to the L.C.C. and the Greater London Regional Planning Committee urging these bodies to use their influence towards the promotion of legislation at an early date to give effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission.

Memorial to the Late Sir Ebenezer Howard.

The Council have made a donation of £5 5s. towards the fund for a Memorial to the late Sir Ebenezer Howard.

World Engineering Congress, Tokio: British Committee.

Dr. Raymond Unwin [*F.*], has been appointed to represent the R.I.B.A. on the British Committee of the World Engineering Congress, Tokio.

British Engineering Standards Association: Conference on Commercial Plywood.

Mr. Francis Hooper [*F.*], has been appointed to represent the R.I.B.A. on the above Conference.

Panels for the Distribution of Speculative Housing Work.

The Council have appointed a Committee to consider, in conjunction with the C.P.R.E., a scheme for setting up panels of architects in connection with speculative housing work.

R.I.B.A. Sessional Papers.

It has been decided, on the recommendation of the Art and Science Standing Committees, to publish abstracts of Sessional Papers in advance. It is hoped, by this method, to increase the interest of members in R.I.B.A. General Meetings at which papers are read.

Irregular Architectural Competitions.

In order to avoid the possibility of circumvention of the Institute veto in the case of an irregular competition it has been decided, on the recommendation of the Competitions Committee, to amplify Clause 7 of the Code of Professional Practice as follows:—

> 7. An Architect should not take any part in a competition as to which the preliminary warning of the Royal Institute has been issued, and must not take any part in a competition as to which the Council of the Royal Institute shall have declared by a

Resolution published in the JOURNAL of the Royal Institute that Members must not take part because the Conditions are not in accordance with the published Regulations of the Royal Institute for Architectural Competitions, *nor must he be associated in any way with the carrying out of a design selected as the result of a competition as to which the Council shall have declared by a Resolution published in the* JOURNAL *that Members must not take part.*

(The additional words are italicised.)

REBATE IN RESPECT OF STUDENTS' CONTRIBUTIONS.

It has been decided, on the recommendation of the Allied Societies' Conference and with the concurrence of the Finance and House Committee, to recommend the General Body to amend Bye-law 85 so as to enable a rebate of one-third of the contributions of Students R.I.B.A. to be made to the Allied Societies in the case of those students who are members of Allied Societies.

OBITUARY.

The late Mr. J. K. Hunter [*L.*].—The President referred to the loss which the Institute and the Council had sustained by the death of Mr. J. K. Hunter, a member of the Council and Past-President of the Glasgow Institute of Architects, and on his proposition the Council passed a resolution of sympathy with the relatives of the late Mr. Hunter.

THE FELLOWSHIP.

The Council, by a unanimous vote, elected the following architect to the Fellowship under the powers defined in the Supplemental Charter of 1925 :—

Mr. R. Jackson (Madras, India).

MEMBERSHIP.

Election 18 *March* 1929.—Nominations for membership were approved as follows :—

As Hon. Associate : 1 application.
As Hon. Corresponding Member : 1 application.
As Fellows : 10 applications.
As Associates : 40 applications.

Reinstatement.—The following ex-member was reinstated :—

As Associate : Ralph Henry Dewhirst.

RETIRED FELLOWSHIP.

The following member was transferred to the Retired Fellowship :—

Frank Walter Mee, Fellow 1896.

RESIGNATIONS.

The following resignations were accepted with regret :

Hubert Saxton Besant [*A.*].
Stanley William Worth Delves [*A.*].
Frank Edmund Littler [*A.*].
James St. John Phillips [*A.*].
William Henry Stanbury [*A*].
Samuel Pierpoint Brinson [*L.*].
Amos Hall [*L.*].
Howard Vincent Russell Schofield [*L.*].
John Basil Lowder Tolhurst [*L.*].
Ernest Robert Walker [*L.*].

APPLICATION FOR ELECTION AS LICENTIATE UNDER SECTION III (F) OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL CHARTER OF 1925.

One application was approved.

Notices

THE TWELFTH GENERAL MEETING.

The Twelfth General Meeting (Ordinary) of the Session 1928-29 will be held on Monday, 22 April 1929, at 8 p.m. for the following purposes :—

To read the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on Monday, 8 April 1929; formally to admit members attending for the first time since their election.

To read the following paper : "The Work of George Wittet," by Mr. John Begg [*F.*]

THE ANNUAL DINNER 1929.

The Annual Dinner will take place on Tuesday, 14 May 1929, in the Merchant Taylors' Hall (by the kind permission of the Court of the Merchant Taylors' Company).

Full particulars are issued with this copy of the JOURNAL.

BRITISH ARCHITECTS' CONFERENCE, YORK. 12 JUNE TO 15 JUNE, 1929.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION.

The annual conference of the Royal Institute of British Architects and its Allied Societies will take place at York from 12 to 15 June 1929. The York and East Yorkshire Architectural Society have in hand the preparation of a most attractive programme and particulars will be sent to members in due course.

It is expected that there will be a large attendance of members from all parts of the country, and they are urgently requested to reserve the dates mentioned above and to arrange for their hotel accommodation at the earliest possible date so as to avoid the risk of disappointment.

The Executive Committee of the Conference have kindly furnished the following list of hotels and boarding-houses, with charges :—

Place and Name.	Bed and Breakfast.	Full Board per day.
HOTELS		
York.—Royal Station ..	11/6 upwards.	
White Swan (Pavement) ..	10/6	18/6
Harkers (on outskirts of City)	10/6	21/–
Black Swan (Coney St.) ..	10/–	18/–
Adelphi	8/–	16/–
Great Northern	8/6 single 15/6 double	
Windmill	7/6	3/– Lunch 3/– Tea
Queens, Micklegate (Gentlemen only)	8/6	15/–
Minster, S. Martin's Lane	6/–	9/– tea, bed and breakfast
Waites Private Hotel ..	8/6	14/–
City Temperance ..	8/–	11/– High tea, bed and breakfast.
Harrogate—Queens	12/–	21/– upwards.
George	11/6	21/–
Majestic	14/6	23/–
Prince of Wales	14/–	18/– upwards. (Free Garage)
Prospect	12/6	21/–
Malton.—Talbot	10/6	17/–

BOARDING HOUSES.

Place and Name.	Bed and Breakfast.	Full Board per day.
York.—Miss A. M. Pettifor, 76 Bootham.	9/6	16/6
Mrs. Crichton, 36 and 37 S. Mary's	7/6 to 8/6	12/6 to 13/6
Miss F. E. O'Connor, 25 Blossom St.	8/6	
Miss E. Hosker, 43 Bootham	5/6	8/6
Mrs. E. H. Brown, 25 Bootham.	7/6	
Mr. C. Young, 24 High Petergate.	7/6	
Mrs. L. M. Brocklebank, 9 Portland Street.	6/-	10/-

SPECIAL RAILWAY FACILITIES.

Arrangements have been made by which members of the Conference can obtain return tickets to York available from 11 to 17 June inclusive at the reduced cost of a a single fare and a third, by using a special Conference Voucher to be obtained on application to the Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, London, W.1.

THE ROYAL GOLD MEDAL FOR ARCHITECTURE.

Intimation has been received that His Majesty the King has approved the award of the Royal Gold Medal to Monsieur Victor Alexandre Frédéric Laloux, Honorary Corresponding Member, of Paris, in recognition of the merit of his executed work.

The medal will be presented to Monsieur Laloux on Monday, 24 June 1929.

R.I.B.A. DEBATES BETWEEN ARCHITECTS AND SPECIALISTS.

The following is the programme for the remaining debate :—

Tuesday, 23 *April* 1929, *at* 5.30 *p.m.*—

Subject : " Organisation."

Speakers : Mr. Matthew Hill (Messrs. Higgs and Hill). Mr. Maurice E. Webb, D.S.O., M.C., F.R.I.B.A.

It is hoped that as many as possible will attend the debate and that the discussion will be general and useful.

COMPOSITION OF MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

The attention of Members is drawn to the scheme for compounding subscriptions for Life Membership which was approved by the General Body at the Business Meeting held on Monday, 5 December 1927.

Fellows, Associates and Licentiates of the Royal Institute may become Life Members by compounding their respective annual subscriptions on the following basis :—

For a Fellow by a payment of £73 10s. (70 guineas).

For an Associate or Licentiate by a payment of £44 2s. (42 guineas), with a further payment of £29 8s. on being admitted as a Fellow.

Provided always that in the case of a Fellow or Associate the above compositions are to be reduced by £1 1s. per annum for every completed year of membership of the Royal Institute after the first five years, and in the case of a Licentiate by £1 1s. per annum for every completed year of membership of the Royal Institute.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Members' subscriptions, Students' and Subscribers' contributions became due on 1 January 1929.

The amounts are as follows :—

Fellows	£5 5 0
Associates	£3 3 0
Licentiates	£3 3 0
Students	£1 1 0
Subscribers	£1 1 0

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF MODERN COMMERCIAL ARCHITECTURE.

POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION.

The International Exhibition of Modern Commercial Architecture will be held at the R.I.B.A. from 7 May to 8 June. At the request of the Exhibition Sub-Committee, the Board of Architectural Education arranged a competition for the design of the Exhibition poster, and this competition was open to students of the Recognised Schools of Architecture.

Twenty-five designs were submitted by the Schools for consideration by the Exhibition Sub-Committee and the latter have now made their award as follows :—

1st Prize (£10), Mr. J. A. Pinckheard (Northern Polytechnic).

2nd Prize (£5), Miss K. Winter (Architectural Association).

3rd Prize (£3), Mr. W. G. Holford (Liverpool University).

It is hoped to make arrangements for exhibiting the designs at the R.I.B.A. in the near future.

Competitions

PROPOSED NEW HALL, THE MOUNT SCHOOL, YORK.

The " Promoters," the Committee of the Mount School, invite Architects who are members of the Society of Friends or those who have at one time attended either the Bootham School or the Mount School, York, to submit designs in competition for a New Hall, proposed to be erected on a site adjoining Dalton Terrace.

Assessor : Mr. J. Mansell Jenkinson [*A.*].

Premiums : £50, £30 and £20.

Last day for questions : 1 March 1929.

Last day for sending in designs : 24 April 1929.

Conditions and site plan may be obtained on application to Dr. C. E. Hodgson, The Mount School, York.

SIMON BOLIVAR MEMORIAL.

PRELIMINARY DETAILS OF A COMPETITION FOR THE ERECTION OF A MONUMENT TO THE LIBERATOR BOLIVAR IN THE CITY OF QUITO.

A competition has been opened for the erection in Quito of a monument to Bolivar.

The Ecuadorean Minister in Paris and two members of the Sociedad Bolivariana of Quito, residing in Paris,

will form a Committee to organise and carry out the said competition.

A jury of four members, composed of experts, artists and art critics will judge the works presented.

The designs, "Esbozos" (drawings or sketches), "maquettes," etc., which it is desired to present must be forwarded to the Legation of Ecuador, 91 Avenue Wagram, Paris, not later than 31 October 1929.

The sum of 2,000,000 French francs is available for the purpose of erecting the monument. This sum includes the fees of the artist who will carry out the work, either by himself or with others acting under his direction.

Honourable mention will be awarded to the authors of the designs adjudged second and third.

The decision of the Jury will be submitted to the Sociedad Bolivariana, of Quito, for ratification, prior to the contract with the author of the selected design being signed.

PROPOSED MENTAL HOSPITAL, ARDEE.

The Louth County Council invite architects to submit designs for a mental hospital on a site at Ardee. Assessor: Geo. P. Sheridan [*A.*]. Premiums: £300, £125 and £75. Last day for questions, 31 March 1929. Designs to be sent in on 15 June 1929. Total cost. £75,000. Conditions of the competition and map of the site may be obtained on application to the Secretary, Louth County Council, Court House, Dundalk.

COMPETITION FOR THE DESIGN OF A GARAGE IN THE THEATRE AREA OF LONDON.

The Assessors have carefully considered the forty-five designs submitted, and now beg to report as follows:—

We unanimously agree the awards as follows:—

First Prize, £350.—Mr. Thomas Spencer, A.R.I.B.A., 18 East Sheen Avenue, London, S.W.14.

Second Prize, £70.—Messrs. P. H. Mewton and Oscar A. Bayne (Student, R.I.B.A.), 52 Guilford Street, London, W.C.1.

Third Prize, £50.—Mr. Stanley Atkinson, 15 Raleigh Gardens, London, S.W.2.

Fourth Prize, £20.—Mr. E. G. Theakston, F.R.I.B.A., 12 New Court, Lincoln's Inn, London, W.C.

In Mr. Thomas Spencer's scheme the general plan is the only detailed practical one submitted, achieving at the same time a sound architectural lay-out. The planning gives the requirements in their proper relationship and meets trade conditions, and shows evidence of a clear conception of the problem. The elevations are not as good as some others submitted. The report is excellent and the cost and financial arrangements sound.

In Messrs. P. H. Mewton and Oscar A. Bayne's scheme the typical floor plan for parking is particularly sound, but the reception and subsidiary services are weak. The scheme is supported by an excellent elevation. The report is inadequate. The cost is considered reasonable.

In Mr. Stanley Atkinson's scheme the basement is good, the reception is weak, the general handling is consistent, but lacks imagination. The moderate cost of the scheme is secured at the expense of height.

In Mr. E. G. Theakston's scheme the approach is good, the division of the petrol and oil services is considered to be a handicap, the repair and washing services are badly placed, the cost and report are satisfactory.

(Signed) WILLIAM E. ROOTES.
T. P. BENNETT.
ROBERT ATKINSON.
J. EDWIN FORBES.

Note.—The President R.I.B.A. was unable to be present when the award was made.

COMPETITION FOR THE DESIGN OF A NATIONAL SIGN FOR PETROL FILLING STATIONS AND GARAGES.

The Assessors have carefully considered the 110 designs submitted and now beg to report as follows:—

We unanimously award the prize of £50 to the author of design No. 28, Mr. R. L. Gould, of 577 Reddings Lane, Hall Green, Birmingham, and highly commend design No. 10 (Mr. H. Lewis Curtis, A.R.I.B.A., of 68 Strand-on-the-Green, Chiswick, W.) and design No. 103 (Mr. G. Stephenson, of the School of Architecture, University of Liverpool).

In our opinion Mr. Gould's design meets the conditions laid down more nearly than any other competitor's, though we suggest that certain modifications in detail are desirable.

The design is adaptable to varying conditions and requirements, would be simple to make and fix, and moderate in cost, thereby being suitable to every type of petrol-filling station and garage.

OSWALD P. MILNE, *Chairman.*
EDWARD MAUFE.
H. P. G. MAULE.
BASIL OLIVER.

NOTE.—Mr. Oliver Hill was unable to be present when the award was made.

Members' Column

MR. F. E. PEARCE EDWARDS.

MR. F. E. PEARCE EDWARDS [*F.*] has been elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

MESSRS. COLERIDGE, JENNINGS & SOIMENOW.

MESSRS. JOHN AND PAUL COLERIDGE, F.R.I.B.A., of 14 North Audley Street, W.1, have gone into partnership with Messrs. Jennings & Soimenow, A.I.Struct.E., of 39 St. James's Street, S.W.1, and the firm will be known as Messrs. Coleridge, Jennings & Soimenow.

FORMATION OF PARTNERSHIP.

MR. A. H. GARDNER [*A.*] has entered into partnership with Mr. C. M. C. Armstrong [*F.*], and his address will in future be 39 High Street, Warwick.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

MR. W. A. FORSYTH [*F.*] and Major H. P. G. Maule [*F.*] have dissolved partnership as from 31 December 1928. Each member will continue in independent practice at the same address as hitherto —12, Stratford Place, W.1. Telephone numbers: W. A. Forsyth, Mayfair 3142; H. P. G. Maule, Mayfair 3623.

PARTNERSHIP WANTED.

PARTNERSHIP required by Fellow, 14 years principal important practice abroad, desires for family reasons settle in London. Capital available, good city connections. Interview can be arranged in London during July.—Apply Box 9429, c/o The Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, London, W.1.

PARTNERSHIP required in London or Kent district by A.R.I.B.A. with wide and exceptional experience as designer and detailer of high-class domestic, bank and office buildings. Highest references. —Apply Box 1128, c/o The Secretary, R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, London W.1.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

MR. STANLEY WAGHORN, A.R.I.B.A., begs to state that he has removed his office to 22 Essex Street, Strand, W.C. Telephone: Central 6912.

MR. C. MCARTHUR BUTLER, F.C.I.S., L.R.I.B.A., has vacated his quarters at 28 Bedford Square, London, W.C.1, and taken up residence at 8 Glen Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth. (Telephone: Bournemouth 4993.) Mr. Butler continues to carry on his professional engagements in London.

CLERK OF WORKS.

CAN any member recommend a Clerk of Works free in a few weeks time for work at an institutional building near London, the erection of which is likely to take about 12 months?—Reply Box 9121, c/o The Secretary, R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, London, W.1.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION.

A.R.I.B.A. with convenient offices in the Temple, desires to find another architect or surveyor to share same. Moderate inclusive terms.—Apply Box 1329, c/o The Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, London, W.1.

FELLOW of the Institute with a West End office having a room to spare, desires to meet another architect with a view to sharing accommodation and running expenses.—Apply Box 7474, c/o The Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, London, W.1.

F.R.I.B.A., with an office in the West End, desires to meet another architect with a view to sharing accommodation and running expenses.—Apply Box 2118, c/o The Secretary, R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, London, W.1.

Minutes XVII

SESSION 1928—1929.

At the Eleventh General Meeting (Ordinary) of the Session 1928—1929, held on Monday, 8 April 1929, at 8.0 p.m.,

Mr. Walter Tapper, A.R.A., President, in the Chair,

The attendance book was signed by 24 Fellows (including 12 Members of Council), 20 Associates (including 2 Members of Council), 2 Licentiates (including 1 Member of Council), 1 Hon. Associate and several visitors.

The Minutes of the Special and Business General Meetings held on 18 March 1929, having been published in the Journal, were taken as read, confirmed, and signed as correct.

The Hon. Secretary announced the decease of :—

Robert Sidney Powell, elected Fellow 1918.
Frederick Ernest Williams, elected Associate 1891, Fellow 1924.
Arthur John Gale, elected Associate 1881, Fellow 1889, and transferred to list of Retired Fellows 1917.
George King Deakin, elected Licentiate 1910.
Richard George Beard, elected Licentiate 1911.

And it was Resolved that the regrets of the Institute for their loss be entered on the Minutes and that a message of sympathy and condolence be conveyed to their relatives.

The following members attending for the first time since their election were formally admitted by the President :—

Mr. H. Chalton Bradshaw [*F.*].
Mr. H. D. Kidd [*A.*].
Mr. C. A. L. Morant [*A.*].

The Chairman announced that by a resolution of the Council the following had ceased to be Licentiates of the Royal Institute :—

Alfred Forrester.
Ralph Simmonds.

Major-General Sir Fabian Ware, K.C.V.O., K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. [Hon. *A.*], having read a Paper on "The Work of the Imperial War Graves Commission," a discussion ensued, and on the motion of Major-General the Hon. Sir Granville Ryrie, K.C.M.G., C.B., High Commissioner for the Australian Commonwealth, seconded by Lieut.-General Sir George Macdonogh, G.B.E., K.C.B., K.C.M.G., a vote of thanks was passed to Sir Fabian Ware by acclamation and was briefly responded to.

The proceedings closed at 9.50 p.m.

ARCHITECTS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY
(*Insurance Department*).
HOUSE PURCHASE SCHEME
(for property in Great Britain only).

The Society is able, through the services of a leading Assurance Office, to assist an Architect (or his client) in securing the capital for the purchase of a house for his own occupation, on the following terms :—

AMOUNT OF LOAN.

Property value exceeding £666, but not exceeding £2,500, 75 per cent. of the value.

Property value exceeding £2,500, but not exceeding £4,500, 66⅔ per cent. of the value.

The value of the property is that certified by the Surveyor employed by the Office.

RATE OF INTEREST, 5½ per cent. gross.

REPAYMENT.

By means of an Endowment Assurance which discharges the loan at the end of 15 or 20 years, or at the *earlier death* of the borrower.

SPECIAL CONCESSION TO ARCHITECTS.

In the case of houses in course of erection, it has been arranged that, provided the Plan and Specification have been approved by the Surveyor acting for the Office, and the amount of the loan agreed upon, and subject to the house being completed in accordance therewith, ONE HALF of the loan will be advanced on a certificate from the Office's Surveyor that the walls of the house are erected and the roof on and covered in.

NOTE.—In 1928, over £20,000 was loaned to architects under this scheme, and as a result over £100 was handed to the Benevolent Fund.

If a quotation is required, kindly send details of your age next birthday, approximate value of house and its exact situation, to the Secretary Architects' Benevolent Society, 9 Conduit Street, London, W.

It is desired to point out that the opinions of writers of articles and letters which appear in the R.I.B.A. JOURNAL must be taken as the individual opinions of their authors and not as representative expression of the Institute.

R.I.B.A. JOURNAL.

DATES OF PUBLICATION.—1929 : 27 April ; 18 May ; 1, 15, 29 June ; 13 July ; 10 August ; 21 September ; 19 October.